

**Amrita Singh / Soubhik Chakraborty**

**The Influence of Hindustani Classical Music  
on Bollywood Songs. A Statistical Outlook**

**Master's Thesis**

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**INFLUENCE OF HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL MUSIC ON  
BOLLYWOOD SONGS: A STATISTICAL OUTLOOK  
AMRITA SINGH AND SOUBHIK CHAKRABORTY**

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## **PREFACE**

Any music originates in the society and develops with the changing realities of it. It accepts new and modifies the existing cultural norms in different periods of time. This process of acceptance and rejection makes any form of art exist for long. In spite of all this, in various phases, Hindustani classical music, being the base of many popular Bollywood songs has helped in their popularity and lifelong existence because of the strong focus on melody. A raga, which is the nucleus of Indian classical music-be it Hindustani or Carnatic-is a melodic structure with fixed notes and a set of rules which characterize a certain mood conveyed by performance. Hindustani ragas have embraced the elements of several Bollywood songs, which has given these songs a strong impact despite the strong influence of western art music in Bollywood music industry. The present work attempts to study this impact in a legitimate manner using a statistical approach emphasizing on statistical modeling of musical structure and performance and other statistical features such as note duration and inter onset interval with a case study in raga Yaman. It turns out that the same statistical model for both the raga bandish and a song based on the same raga, i.e., Yaman, an evening raga of the Kalyan thaat.

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