

Unearthing Ancient Melodies: Sunil Santha, the Father of Modern Sinhala Music



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OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Findings
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- Conclusion
- Recommendation



INTRODUCTION



This research paper explores into the significance of ancient graffiti discovered at the Sigiri fortress site, which were subsequently adapted into songs by the renowned Sri Lankan musicologist, Sunil Santha.

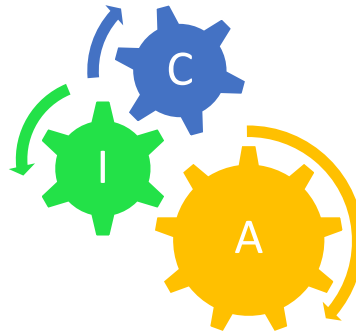


OBJECTIVES

- To promote indigenous melodies of Sri Lanka on a global scale.
- To integrate Sigiri graffiti songs into Sri Lanka's tourism sector.
- To highlight Sunil Santha's significant contributions to Sri Lanka's national identity through his innovative approach to musicology.



METHODOLOGY



Methodology draws on the study of four Sigiri graffiti that have been reinterpreted as songs by the distinguished musicologist Sunil Santha.

Sigiri, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1982, has gained recent attention through social media, particularly for its ancient frescoes and graffiti.



FINDINGS



FINDINGS - 1/3

- While these artistic expressions were initially decoded by Professor Senerath Paranavitarana in 1940, their musical potential remained unexplored.
- Collaborative efforts in the 1960s aimed to interpret and create Sinhala music inspired by these enigmatic graffiti.



FINDINGS - 2/3

Most musicians initially perceived the graffiti as devoid of musical content.

Sunil Santha, an exceptional musician and researcher, explored into Sri Lankan indigenous poetic patterns, Theravada Buddhist traditions, and traditional drum court rhythms..



FINDINGS - 3/3

His innovative thinking led to the creation of four Sigiri graffiti songs;

- ‘Hamal Maru Yahassayo’,
- ‘Sihi Raju Yasasa Piri’,
- ‘Saraga Mala’ and
- ‘Sirilak Diwe Pihiti Siri Bara Sihigira’

in 1966, a pioneering contribution to modern Sinhala music.



DISCUSSION



DISCUSSION - 1/3

Sunil Santha's revolutionary approach go beyond conventional boundaries, bridging archaeology and musicology.



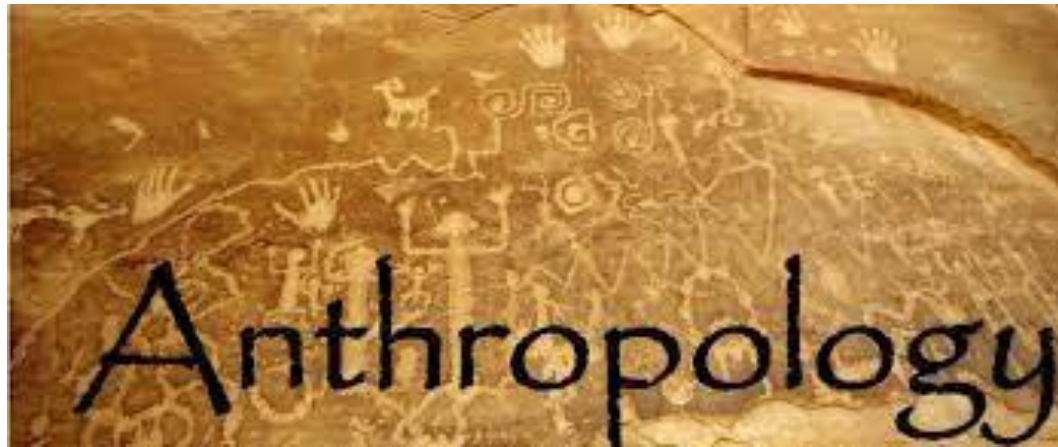
DISCUSSION - 2/ 3

His profound understanding of Sinhala cultural values, drawn from native poems and Vannam recitations studied under Banda Gununanse's guidance in 1939, laid the foundation for his ground breaking work on Sigiri's ancient melodies.



DISCUSSION - 3/3

His unique position as both a musician and anthropologist underscores the fusion of cultural meaning and artistic expression.



CONCLUSION



CONCLUSION

Sunil Santha's exceptional contributions to Sinhala music and his relentless pursuit of the ancient melodies hidden within Sigiri's graffiti distinguish him as a significant anthropologist and a cultural icon.

His legacy endures as a testament to the symbiotic relationship between cultural anthropology and artistic innovation, leaving an indelible mark on the world of Sinhala music.

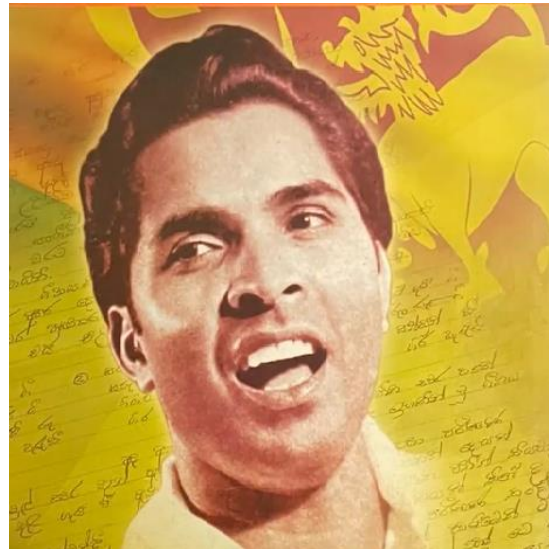


RECOMMENDATION



RECOMMENDATION

This paper works proposed and nominate SIGIRI four Graffiti reinterpret into modern music songs by unearthing ancient melodies SUNIL SANTHA, identify as the greatest **Cultural Anthropologist** of the human world



THANK YOU!