

ETHNIC FOLKWAYS RECORDS FE 4357



Batak Music

TOBAK BATAK MUSIC PLAYED BY THE **TIHANG GULTOM GROUP**, GURU TIHANG, LEADER

Recorded by Paul Pedersen

Material collected by Paul Pedersen and Toenggoel P. Siagian



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SIDE 1

1. Introduction with examples of the instruments
2. "The Song of the Babysitter" lullaby
3. "The Eye Opener"
4. "Song of the Ugly One"

SIDE 2

1. "Do Not Put Bané Bané Flowers in Your Hair"
2. "Don't get Gossiped About (by people)"
3. "I am Bone Tired"
4. "O AEK SARULA"
(E. Sirait, AWK Samosir, J. Situmorang)

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DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE

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NOTES ON BATAK MUSIC

by Toenggoel P. Siagian, University of California, Santa Cruz

The Bataks live in highlands of North Sumatra around Lake Toba. This record represents the music of one sub-group: the Toba Batak.

Batak music can be categorized in two major groupings: Formal ceremonial music performed on solemn occasions such as weddings, funerals, village meetings, etc., and informal music or entertainment music. Formal ceremonial music usually accompanies ceremonial dances dedicated to honored relatives whether they are still alive or have long since departed. Obviously the line between ceremonial music and entertainment music cannot always be sharply drawn. Even ceremonial music, especially at weddings, does attain recreational overtones, and some folk music quite often has religious or moral overtones.

The instrumentation of the two groups of music is however quite different; except for the Sarune and the odam (drum), there is no overlap in instruments. The gong (ogung in Batak meaning majestic), and the taganing, a tuned set of drums, are never used in informal music. The hasapi (two string lute) is in turn restricted to entertainment music, which is often called "hasapi" after the main instrument used.

With the rise of Christian influence which penetrated the area around 1850, Batak music declined. The church correctly perceived the pivotal role of music in the religious life of the Batak and tried to replace Batak music with imported Western church music. In recent years, however, traditional Batak music is again on the rise.

The songs on this record represent a slightly modernized version of traditional Batak folk songs, that is, informal music. The influence of Western music is obvious, but yet there is no doubt that these recordings represent truly Batak musical expressions.

On this recording the leader of the group, Guru Tihang, a famous Batak musician and composer, introduces the various instruments and each of the songs by title.

TRANSCRIPT

Side 1, Band 1: These are the original instruments consisting of:

sarune	double reed, oboe type
kecap	two string plucked lute
seruling	end blown flute
garantung	metallophone
tulila	transverse flute
odam	single headed drum
gambang	wooden xylophone
salohot	transverse flute

Band 2: And now you will hear "The Song of the Babysitter." (lullaby)

Band 3: The second song that we will play is: "The Eye Opener"

Band 4: The third song is: "Song of the Ugly One"

- Side II, Band 5: The fourth song is: "Do not put bane bane flowers in your hair"
 Band 6: The fifth song is titled: "Don't get Gossiped About (by people)"
 Band 7: The sixth song is titled: "I am Bone Tired"
 Band 8: The seventh song that we will play for you is titled: "O Aek Sarula" sung by
 A.W.K. Samosir, Edison Sirait and Jatomang Situmorang. (Aek Sarula is a
 brook that flows by the town of Taratung in the Silindung Valley)

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TRANSCRIPT

- Side I, Band 1: These are the original instruments consisting of:
 sarone
 kecapi
 seruling
 gambang
 tulus
 odam
 gambang
 soloist
 And now you will hear "The Song of the Bopstetter" (lullaby)
 The second song that we will play is: "The Eye Opener"
 The third song is: "Song of the Ugly One"