

# MUSIC of SOUTH ARABIA



RECORDED BY WOLF LESLAU

WAR SONGS  
SWORD DANCE  
GATHERING SONGS  
LOVE SONGS  
WEDDING SONGS  
FOLK DANCE  
TAX SONG

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# MUSIC OF SOUTH ARABIA

Documentary Recordings from the Western  
Protectorate and Aden

## INTRODUCTION AND NOTES ON THE RECORDINGS BY WOLF LESLAU

THE MUSIC IN THIS COLLECTION IS SELECTED FROM AMONG RECORDINGS WHICH I MADE IN SOUTH ARABIA IN 1950. THE BEDOUIN RECORDINGS WERE MADE IN THE CAMP OF THE LEVIES IN THE WESTERN PROTECTORATE. THE YEMENITE SONGS WERE RECORDED IN THE HASHED CAMP NEAR ADEN, A GATHERING PLACE FOR YEMENITE JEWS ENROUTE TO ISRAEL. THE ARAB BEDOUIN RECORDINGS ARE ALL DOCUMENTARY. THEY WERE MADE AT AN ACTUAL CONVOCATION OF TRIBESMEN, AND GIVE A GENERAL PICTURE OF THE FESTIVE NATURE OF SUCH A GATHERING. THE MUSIC INCLUDED HERE DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO GIVE A CROSS SECTION OF ARABIAN MUSICAL LIFE. IT IS OFFERED ONLY TO PROVIDE A GLIMPSE OF SOUTH ARABIC MUSIC IN ITS SOCIAL SETTING.

AMONG THE BEDOUINS, WHEN TRIBESMEN COME TO A MEETING, OR WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THEIR DESTINATION AFTER A LONG JOURNEY, THEY CHANT LINES WHICH ARE THE TRADEMARK OF THE TRIBE. WHEN IMPORTANT VISITORS ARRIVE AT A TRIBAL MEETING, THE HOSTS FIRE GUNS IN THE AIR AS A SALUTE. THE HOSTS MAY ALSO MAKE UP VERSES OF WELCOME, AND THE VISITORS MAY RESPOND WITH OVER VERSES. SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF THIS KIND OF SINGING ARE INCLUDED HERE.

THE SONGS OF THE YEMENITE JEWS ARE MOSTLY RELIGIOUS IN CHARACTER. THEY ARE SUNG, HOWEVER, ON VARIOUS FESTIVE OCCASIONS, SUCH AS WEDDINGS, CIRCUMCISION CEREMONIES, AND SO ON. EXAMPLES OF THE JEWISH YEMENITE SONGS ARE INCLUDED HERE BECAUSE -- LIKE THE BEDOUIN MUSIC -- THEY ARE LITTLE KNOWN ASPECTS OF THE MUSICAL LIFE OF THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

## SIDE I

GATHERING SONG OF THE TRIBE OF AWLAQI:  
THE MEN START SINGING BEFORE THEY APPEAR AT THE GATHERING PLACE AND CONTINUE WITH THE SONG WHEN THEY HAVE ARRIVED AT THE TRIBAL CONVOCATION. THEY REPEAT THE SAME WORDS OVER AND OVER: "THE LIGHTNING HAS APPEARED, AND THE THUNDER IS STILL STRONGER. BETWEEN YOU AND ME A COUNSEL IS POSSIBLE. DON'T THINK THAT I AM LIKE THIS. I AM A STRONG SEA AND THE FISH IS CAUGHT IN THE PLAITED ROPES".

SWORD DANCE: THE DANCERS, AMOUNTING TO AS MANY AS TEN, DANCE IN A CIRCLE SWINGING THEIR SWORDS.

GATHERING SONG OF THE TRIBE OF AW'DALI:  
"SHOW ME THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HEADS OF THE TRIBES. INDEED, WHEN I SEE THEM A NEW THOUGHT COMES TO ME. THERE IS NO PEACE BETWEEN THE WOOD AND THE FIRE".

WAR SONG: "I DON'T LIKE THE SHURF (A TYPE OF GUN), I TAKE THE WEAPON OF MAUSER".

LOVE SONG: "WHY, OH GARDENER, ARE YOU AWAKE AND NOT ASLEEP? AND YOU PREVENT ME FROM COMING TO MY BELOVED."

SONG ABOUT THE PAYING OF TAXES: "IT IS DIFFICULT FOR A TRIBESMAN TO LET ANOTHER TRIBESMAN PAY HIS TAXES. IN THE BLACK CAVE THE RAIN LEAKS THROUGH". (I.E. THE PEOPLE WEEP BECAUSE OF THIS, THE 'BLACK CAVE' REPRESENTING THE EYES)

DRAMATIC REPRESENTATION OF TRIBAL QUARREL: THE SOUND OF GUNSHOTS IS HEARD AMIDST THE GENERAL UPROAR.

**FOLK SONG: "TWO PERSONS CAME FROM ARQA, AND FROM BANDAR ANWER. HOW WOUNDED THEY WERE! THEY CAME BROKEN; ONE OF THEM, WE HAVE MENDED HIS BONE, THE SECOND ONE WE CANNOT. I AM GOING TO BRING TWO PEOPLE WHO CAN MEND FRACTURES"**.

**DANCE: FLUTE, DRUM AND VOICE.**

**WEDDING SONG (JEWS OF YEMEN): ONE MAN SINGS, READING FROM A BOOK, AS THE OTHER PLAYS, AND TWO OR THREE MEN DANCE IN THE MIDDLE.**

**WEDDING SONG (JEWS OF YEMEN): MALE VOCAL, CYMBALS.**

**LOVE SONG (ADEN): MALE VOCAL, FLUTE AND PLUCKED INSTRUMENT.**

**LOVE SONG (ADEN): MALE VOCAL, FLUTE AND PLUCKED INSTRUMENT.**

**EDITOR - HAROLD COURLANDER  
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR - MOSES ASOH**

FE4361 MUSIC OF AFGHANISTAN, recorded in Afghanistan by Radio Kabul: authentic performances by Afghanistani folk artists and folk orchestras. With notes, photographs.  
1-12" 33-1/3 rpm longplay record

FE4469 (P469) KURDISH FOLK SONGS AND DANCES (Iraq), recorded by Ralph S. Solecki. Lawk, Besta, Hairan. Heroic songs, love songs, dance songs, folk dances. Flute, drums.  
1-12" 33-1/3 rpm longplay record

FE4470 TAUREG MUSIC of the SOUTHERN SAHARA, recorded by Finola and Geoffrey Holiday: women's songs, love songs, camel song, with Tendi, water drums and Imzhad.  
1-12" 33-1/3 rpm longplay record

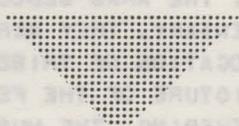
FE4480 ARABIC AND DRUSE MUSIC, recorded in Palestine by Sam Eskin. From south of Damascus east of the Jordan slopes. Instrumental and vocal. Selections include: Ud music, welcome song, love songs, songs of eulogy, songs of praise and joy, wedding music, bedouin camp songs and music, double reed music, songs of humor and festival music. Notes include music transcriptions, and texts in Arabic and English translation.  
1-12" 33-1/3 rpm longplay record

FW6925 (FP925) ARABIC SONGS OF LEBANON an EGYPT. Played and sung by the George Sawaya Trio and Female Chorus. Texts in Arabic and English. Includes: Salam Dance, Nora Ya Nora, Titla Ya Kamar, Halfway You Walk With Me, O THE Charm of Your Scarf, He Didn't Tell Me. Lebanese Folk Dances.  
1-10" 33-1/3 rpm longplay record

FW8816 SONGS OF LEBANON, SYRIA AND JORDAN sung in Arabic by Afif Bulos: Mash'al DAN sung in Arabic by Afif Bulos: Mash'al, Bint est-Shalibiyya (The Pretty Lass), The Rozana (Ar-Ro-zana), Yamil 'Abaya (Maiden Beautiful), Tafta Hindi (Indian Taffeta), Jamman Bada Yatathanna (When My Love Languished), Alloma (The Fall of the Sword Is Easier), Ala Dal'ona (The Spoilt One), 'Al Yadi (The Valley), Ali-'Imayyim, Ya Ghzayyel (The Gazelle): with Arabic and English texts and translations.  
1-12" 33-1/3 rpm longplay record

FW8856 FOLK SONGS AND DANCES OF IRAN includes Varsaghi (folk song from Mazanderan), Damkol (folk song from Kurdestan), Raghse Chupi (folk dance of the Bakhtiari Tribe), Raghse Ghuchani (from Khorasan), Dane Nar (folk song from Khorasan), Dane Boland (folk song from Shiraz, province of Fars), Ay Sar Kotal (folk song of the Mamsami), Pache Leyli (folk song from Gilan) Korashim (folk song from Gilan). Notes on Persian music by Anthony Byan Shay.  
1-12" 33-1/3 rpm longplay record

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