

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FW8801

THE TURKISH INFORMATION OFFICE PRESENTS:

➤ SONGS AND DANCES OF ➤

# TURKEY

➤ Recordings and Comments by LAURA BOULTON ➤



TURKISH SWORD DANCE

DESIGN: INTERDESIGN

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MUSIC LP

# Songs and Dances of Turkey

RECORDINGS AND COMMENTS BY LAURA BOUTON

The recording is made with the cooperation of the  
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From the earliest times, music has been an important part of life in Turkey. Turkish music includes a variety of musical forms — ancient and modern, past and present, including (1) Ancient classical music (2) Folk music (3) Popular music and (4) Modern classical music.

## SIDE 1

All over Turkey people love to sing and dance. Turkish folk music — the music of the people — is appealing, vigorous, pulsing with vitality. There are songs for every activity — dance songs, love songs, war songs, songs of work, songs of play, songs of worship. Turkish folk songs, like folk music all over the world, are constantly changing as they are interpreted by different performers, yet some of the songs have been sung for centuries.

The folk instruments show interesting variety as they change from district to district. Many of them are extremely old and can be seen pictured in the ancient Hittite art that dates back to the year 2,000 B.C. Among the various stringed instruments are the *cura* with three strings, the *baglama* with six strings, the *bozuk* with eight strings, the *agik sazi* with nine strings, and the *mevdan sazi* with twelve strings. All of these are plucked with plectrums. Among the stringed instruments that are played with bows, the most popular are the *kemençe* in the Black Sea region, and the *kabak* from the Aegean area.

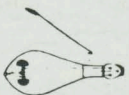


The *zurna* is an ancestor of the oboe and is always played with a large drum called the *davul*. The *kanul*, the shepherd's flute, with its haunting quality, is a very popular folk instrument. The *ney* is a sort of flute that was used in ancient times and is still played in Turkey.

**BAND 1** — A dance tune very popular in eastern Turkey is performed in this recording by musicians from Kars playing the clarinet, fiddle and drum.

**BAND 2** — This is a Central Turkey song of a gay-hearted girl who sings not sadly, but quite cheerfully about a man who scorned her. She sings:

"I liked him very much  
But he didn't want me."



This song is sung by a chorus accompanied by an orchestra of folk instruments. Wooden spoons struck together and castanets emphasize the rhythm.

**BAND 3** — In this recording the clarinet and *darbuka* (usually played together) accompany the dance called *zeybek* which is typical of the Aegean provinces of Turkey. In their *zeybek* the mountain people imitate the eagle, spreading the arms in broad gestures.

**BAND 4** — In this *zeybek* from Izmir, the 3-stringed instrument called the *cura* is played with the *darbuka* to accompany the dance.

**BAND 5** — Here is another folk song of Central Turkey accompanied by folk instruments. It is a love song.

"She is a daughter of Kermen  
Her cheek is redder than a rose  
She has a beauty mark on her neck  
I took her to be the Morning Star."

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**BAND 6** — The bag-pipe that plays this melody is called the *tulum*.

**BAND 7** — One of the most charming folk instruments is the six stringed *baglama*. In this recording you hear an old melody which captured the mood of the camel caravan. The six strings of the *baglama* are plucked to imitate the beautiful camel bells, double bells about eight inches long, worn by the camels and the player strikes the resonator with his finger to imitate the plodding camels of the caravan. There are no sand dunes in Turkey, but in the ancient days of the Ottoman Empire, when camel caravans from all over the Near East came through Turkey, there were many caravan songs.

**BAND 8** — In this song performed by a male soloist answered by a male chorus, we have an old and typical song which I recorded at Erzurum in the mountains of Eastern Turkey. It is a love song and the words follow:

(Solo)

The water of the valley flows sideways  
Do not open my wound—blood will flow  
Oh misty mountains. Hey!

(Chorus)

You are from the valley. Hey!  
You are very charming. Hey!  
You are my love. Hey!  
You are mine. Hey!

**BAND 9** — This spirited dance is a great favorite of the village people of northeastern Turkey. It is called the *Kazarka* and was recorded by three musicians of Kars. The clarinet, fiddle, and drum accompany this dance.

**BAND 10** — The *kemençe*, the primitive fiddle of the Black Sea area, is a very appealing little instrument. It is used to accompany songs or dances, and the musicians playing this instrument often have great virtuosity.

**BAND 11** — This haunting melody is played by the *kanul*, or shepherd's flute.

**BAND 12** — The *kemençe* heard here is accompanying a dance which imitates the quick movements of fish in water. The people of the Black Sea region live by fishing and often imitate the movements of fish in their dances. In this record you hear the *kemençe*, the song, the stamping, and hand claps of the dancer. You also hear explosive clicks, sounds which the dancer produces with his tongue.

**BAND 13** — To get a picture of Turkish music today, we should include an example of the popular music which can be heard all over Turkey. An old folk song which has become a popular song and is often sung in the night clubs of Istanbul is called "My Black Pepper". It may be sung by either a man or a woman. Nonsensical words are used simply because they rhyme.

"MY BLACK PEPPER"

Oh oh black pepper isn't food  
My baby certainly  
certainly isn't food  
But no one has more  
beautiful eyebrows  
Oh mother let me get married  
Baby let's, let's get married  
For youth's sake  
My black pepper pepper pepper  
My sugar candy candy candy



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My black pepper pepper pepper  
My sugar candy candy candy  
Where shall we go  
Where shall we go  
shall we go shall we go  
The cops are coming  
Let's run away.  
Where shall we go shall we go  
The cops are coming  
Let's run away.

## SIDE II

Turkish art music is a highly elaborate form found in the larger cities and in the former court circles. It is reminiscent of early European church music. It is monophonic (without harmony and counterpoint, like plainsong), and is a high development of single line melody. Its endless variations in melody and its innovations of rhythm are extremely inventive. In Turkish art music the melodies often come from as early a period as the fifteenth century. Classical music in Turkey means two things: classical western music and ancient Turkish classical music.

**BAND 1 and BAND 2** — The following examples of early classical music are performed by the Historic Turkish Music Chorus and Orchestra of Radio Istanbul directed by Mesud Cemil. These classical songs belong to the early eighteenth century.

**BAND 3** — In this recording another example of early classical music is played on the flute.

**BAND 4 and BAND 5** — These two melodies are played by two folk instruments which are found in every Turkish village: the *zurna* (a primitive oboe) and the *darul* (the big bass drum). These instruments are always together and are considered essential for wedding ceremonies, wrestling matches and other festive occasions.

**BAND 6** — Another interesting musical style was connected with the military band known as the *Mehter*. Military music had its origin in Turkey, but the *Mehter* travelled with the Turks as far as Vienna, and military march themes from the *Mehter* influenced certain works of great European composers, even Mozart and Beethoven. The *Mehter* used a combination of Turkish classical and folk music. Big drums and bells were used to punctuate the rhythm and both the style and the use of bells in symphonic music were borrowed from Turkey by western musicians.

**BAND 7** — This march known as the "Izmir March" is played by the Band of the Military Academy (Harp Okulu) in Ankara (comparable to our West Point Band). In this recording the song is not sung, but this is a very famous marching song in Turkey.

"My mother brought me up  
To protect and love my country  
She said to me I will regret the  
milk I gave you  
If you do not attack the enemy  
bravely."

**BAND 8** — This clarinet solo is played by a very fine village musician of Kars. It is definitely not the technique of a town musician.

**BAND 9** — This recording, like the previous one, is an interesting example of instrumental folk technique in which the *saz*, one of the most popular string instruments of Turkey, accompanies a love song called "Every Morning, Every Dawn".

