

STEREO

THE FEENJON GROUP

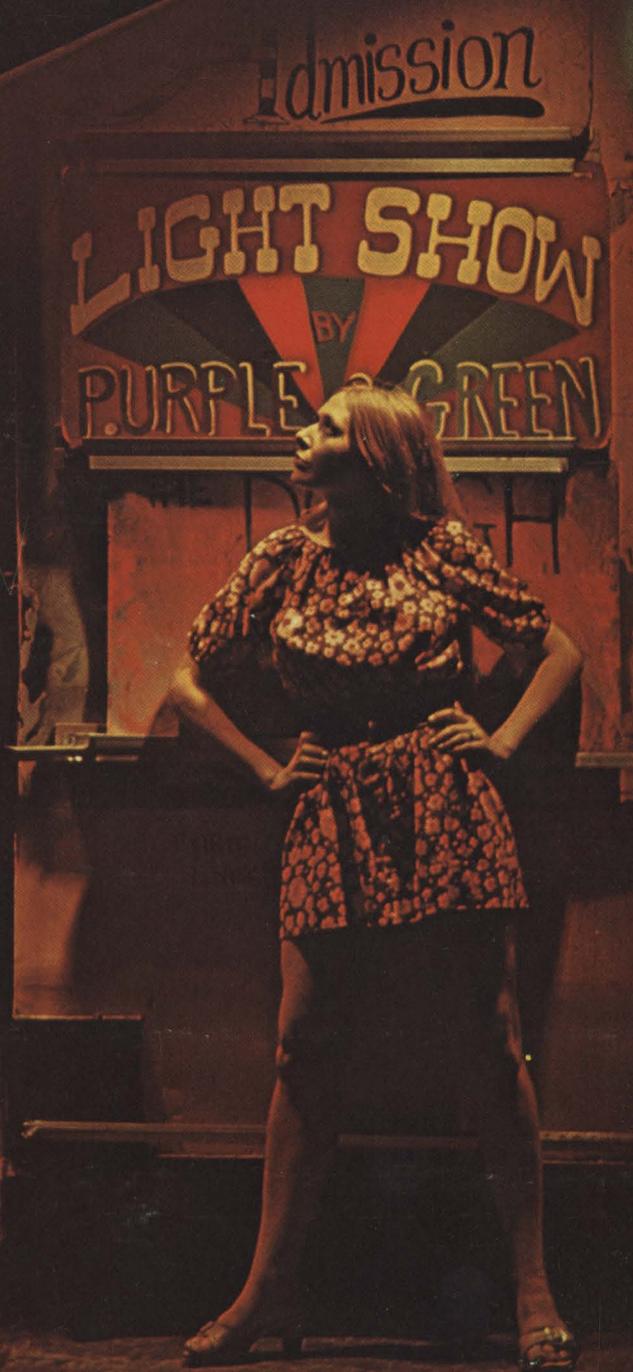


MFS 497

BELLY DANCING AT THE

CAFE FEENJON

AMERICA'S
MOST EXCITING
NEAR EASTERN
ENSEMBLE



DESIGN: EDWARD BUXBAUM

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY MENACHEM DWORMAN

The Feenjon Group

Produced and Directed by Menachem Dworman

An Evening at the Cafe Feenjon

The Feenjon Group can be heard nightly at the Cafe Feenjon, located on Macdougall Street in New York's Greenwich Village. From the very beginning, the Feenjon has been a mecca for lovers of Israeli, Greek, Arabic, Turkish and Armenian song and dance. Many notables of the entertainment world, too, attracted by the informal atmosphere and musical excitement of the Cafe, have become late-late habitués and frequently participate in the performances. Such celebrities include Herschel Bernardi, Theodore Bikel, Eartha Kitt, Yaffa Yarkoni, Shoshana Damari, Jose Feliciano, Allan Sherman and others.

Erwin Frankel, host of WFRM's "Music From Around The World," has described the unique Feenjon sound as "at times sensuous, often lilting, always passionate . . . seduces the listener into hand-clapping, shoulder-weaving, foot-hopping participation."

MENACHEM DWORMAN is the founder* of the Cafe and leader of the Group. His self-taught guitar and oud are the sparks that give Feenjon performances their warmth and excitement. He has taken the Group to countless concerts which include Carnegie and Town Halls and the New York World's Fair. Manny has recorded Near Eastern and Greek as well as Israeli music.

*and co-owner with Robert Engelhardt

MARGALIT ANKORY is a fifth-generation Sabrah. Her professional background includes theater, musical comedy and two movie appearances. She was selected by Harold Prince to play one of the leads in the forthcoming musical based on "Zorba the Greek." Her recorded version of *Jerusalem of Gold* has been widely acclaimed as one of the most sensitive renditions of this beautiful song.

JERRY SAPPPIR dates back to "the old Feenjon." His musical warmth and sensitivity as well as his wit and charm add greatly to the Group's personality. A graduate of the School of Performing Arts and Brooklyn College, singer-guitarist Jerry has toured with a cantorial choir, made many TV appearances, and displayed his versatility on several record albums.

ANGELO SARIDIS, the newest member of the Feenjon Group, was born in Athens, where he perfected his guitar virtuosity. He has played in many clubs in Greece and toured in Israel where he was noted for his Italian as well as his Greek music. Angelo came to the United States in 1961 and performed in many parts of the country until he joined the Feenjon Group.

ALI HAFID, the only Arab member of the Feenjon Group, was brought to the United States to perform at the Moroccan Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. Ali is considered to be the outstanding drummer in the field of Near Eastern music.

JIMMY LINARDOS received his musical training in conservatories in Corfu (where he was born) and Athens. He has recorded for Monitor an album of his own original compositions entitled "Ballads of a Greek Cafe." His magnificent accordion playing on the present recording as well as the previous *Feenjon Goes Greek* rounds out the Feenjon sound.

STEVE KNIGHT, guitar.
LOU MAVROGIAN, bass.

Side One

1. **BEI MEIN REBBE IS GIVAIZIN A GANAYVA** (Yiddish) 1:25
There Was A Robbery At My Rabbi's
Vocal: Margalit

There was a robbery at my Rabbi's
They took seven great shirts
Three with patches
Four with holes

They took seven candlesticks
Three with no sticks
Four without sockets

They stole seven regal roosters
Three without heads
Four with no wings.

2. **BERYUZOVYE KALYUCHKI** (Russian) 2:50
Emerald Rings
Vocal: Jerry

"You've gone, your lovely shoulders disappeared
in the dark of the night
Where the rings fell in the green.
I cannot pick them up
Nor can I bring back the love of my dearest.
This, then, is the end of happiness."

3. **EREV SHEL SHOSHANIM** (Israeli) 3:30
Evening of Roses
Vocal: Margalit

"An evening with you is like an evening of roses."

4. **AINA ZORGA** (Arabic) 4:25
Blue Eyes
Vocal: Ali

A lively Moroccan love song which describes the special attractions of a lovely girl with blue eyes.

5. **LOMER ALLEH SINGEN** (Yiddish) 2:50
Let's All Sing
Vocal: Jerry

Let's all sing a little song.
Rabbi, tell us,
Why do the rich have a nice freshly baked roll
And the poor a dried out piece of crust?
Why do the rich have a lovely piece of perch
And the poor a soaked out piece of herring?
And why do the rich have a delicious sweet pudding
And the poor have nothing but troubles ("gehakte tsoris")?

6. **BIKLIBIDIA** (Greek) 3:15
Jewelry
Vocal: Angelo

An Arabic rhythm is woven into this upbeat Greek song that tells how jewelry worn by a pretty girl jangles with her movements.

Side Two

1. **MARINELLA** (Greek) 4:15
Vocal Duet: Margalit & Angelo

A Greek song in 9/8 "Kashlamar" tempo. "I love a gypsy girl whose name is Marinella . . . Her body is flexible like a snake and she is tall, beautiful and has eyes like almonds."

2. **DONNA, DONNA** (Yiddish—sung in English) 3:00
Vocal: Jerry

Composed by Sholom Secunda for the Yiddish musical theater in New York, this song has become part of our folk legacy. It has been recorded by Joan Baez, Martha Schlamme and Theodore Bikel.

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3. **SHISHELAI** (Turkish) 3:45
Vocal: Jerry

A Turkish song about a bellydancer with a red dress. She changes to a green dress and the men break their drinking glasses all around her.

4. **EFIGES** (Greek) 3:05
Nightbirds
Vocal: Angelo

A young man tells his loved one how the nightbirds join in his sorrow and cry each time she leaves him. Although the words are plaintive, the song is set to a swiny samba beat.

5. **MACH MACH** (Arabic) 3:00
Come, Come
Vocal: Ali

A young man asks his sweetheart to return to him. The intriguing 6/8 beat is one of the typical folk rhythms of Morocco.

6. **DOCE CASCABELES** (Spanish) 2:15
Twelve Bells
Vocal: Margalit

My horse wears twelve little bells
They jingle as he jogs down the road
And my beautiful sweetheart wears
twelve carnations.

The FEENJON GROUP on MONITOR



JERUSALEM OF GOLD

Featuring Margalit

(STEREO MFS 488)

Yerushalayim Shel Zahav (Jerusalem of Gold) (Israeli); Migdalim (Israeli); Erev Ba (Israeli); Chiribim (Yiddish); Habena Badena (Arabic); Rad Halailah (Israeli); Aravah (Israeli); Rumania (Yiddish); Daber Elai Bifrachim (Israeli); Rachel (Israeli); Shiftatelli (Arabic); Ayil, Ayil (Israeli).

The FEENJON GOES GREEK

(STEREO MFS 482)

Oso S'Agapo; Kaimos; Fige; Pou Tha Vro Yineka; Gypsy Sorrow; Hasapiko; Mineh; Zorba; Mandoubala; Psaropoula; Koukla; Yerakina.



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