

STEREO

MFS 731

MONITOR PRESENTS SONGS & DANCES OF

# VIETNAM



DESIGN: EDWARD BUXBAUM

**monitor**  
MUSIC OF THE WORLD

*Songs and  
Dances of*

# VIETNAM

MFS 731  
STEREO

## Side One

1. **MUA SAP Dance of the Bamboos** (6:26)  
*Orchestra*

Amid the joyousness of the liberation the Montagnards of the Northeast (Dien Bien Phu) welcome their fighting comrades.

2. **QUANG BINH My Native Land** (4:09)

*Women's chorus accompanied by a 16-string zither*

Seven ravishing young girls, dressed in green silk tunics, sing to the accompaniment of the "Dan Thap Luc." This instrument is a sixteen stringed zither, with a crystalline sound of great purity, tuned to the pentatonic scale.

3. **CON VOI The Elephant** (2:55)

*Vocal solo: Tran Hieu*

This elephant which moves ponderously with his trunk forward, his front paws next and his rear paws followed by the tail is the powerful piece of heavy artillery that the fighters push up to the top of the hill. But even at the height of the straining, the fighters do not lose their sense of humor.

4. **TINH QUAN DAN People and Fighters Unite** (4:47)

*Moon-Lyre: Vu Pho Zither: Kim Anh*

A solo on the lute in the shape of the moon. (It is the shape of the sound box that gives it that name.) On a long slender shaft are fixed eight frets of unequal spacing suspended from which are the strings—tuned to intervals of a fifth—which wrap around two pegs. The possibilities of the moon-shaped lute are numerous: accompaniment by pressing on the strings, glissando, stifling sounds, embellishments by the playing of the left hand and different attacks on the various strings.

Traditionally played by men, the moon-shaped lute is one of the basic instruments accompanying the performances of the Vietnamese theater.

5. **RU CON Lullaby** (3:31)

*Vocal solo: Ai Lien*

A popular song of Nam Bo, South Vietnam. Ai Lien is one of the greatest singers of Vietnam in the authentic and pure tradition of the folk song. "Alone, I contemplate the moon which is reflected in the pool—my sadness is great; don't cry, little one. Go to sleep, my child."

6. **BAI LA MAY AO Let Us Sew Warm Clothes . . .** (2:03)  
*Women's Chorus*

. . . for our fighting brethren. A song from the front which has spread and become popular all over Vietnam.

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*The Vietnamese  
National  
Song and Dance  
Ensemble*

*The Vietnamese National Song and Dance Ensemble was founded in 1952 during the war with France. It consisted originally of 16 musicians and dancers who performed for the soldiers and in the villages. The Ensemble, at the same time, began to recruit new members, gathered folklore of the ethnic minorities and studied the dances of the various localities.*

*In 1954 the Ensemble settled in Hanoi, now having approximately 80 members. They received the official designation of the Vietnamese government as the Ensemble of Song and Dance of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Under the musical and choreographic direction of Minh Hien the Ensemble has been performing ever since and during their first tour abroad made this recording in Paris.*

Recorded by Le Chant du Monde, Paris.

## Side Two

1. **MUA CHUONG Dance of the Little Bells** (2:58)

*Drums: Anh Nghiem Bells: Nhu Binh and Manh Cuong*

A Springtime dance celebrating the New Year's Day of the minority called "Man," a Montagnard people of the North near the Chinese border.

2. **LY CON SAO Song of the Blackbird** (2:54)

*Vocal solo: Ai Lien*

. . . Who then will carry me away far beyond the river, so that I may escape from my cage and fly freely through the skies?

3. **RU CON Lullaby** (3:05)

*Instrumental solo: Thanh Chuong*

The Dan Bau, or monostring, is a typical Vietnamese instrument. It is made of a single string which is fixed across a sound box with a supple bamboo stick in the form of an arc as a bow. It has a three octave range and the shape and construction of this instrument makes it possible to emit sounds very much like the human voice.

Scorned by the Court and the nobles, the Dan Bau was formerly the chosen instrument of the blind wandering minstrels. It was perfect for accompanying folk song, and above all, the love song. It is said that the sound of this instrument is irresistible to young girls. "Young girl, do not listen to the Dan Bau for there are many of you who cannot resist the player of the monostring," so ran the words of an old Vietnamese chanteuse.

4. **TIENG DAN TA-LU When the Ta-Lu Sounds** (3:16)

*Women's Chorus*

The ta-lu is a stringed instrument of the Van-Kieu minority—(region of Khe Sang). The brave young Montagnards who traverse the paths of the jungle, carrying heavy sacks of rice with which to feed their fighting brethren, never go without their ta-lu which they carry slung over their shoulders.

5. **DAN BO TOI My Herd of Cattle** (4:16)

*Vocal solo: Tran Hieu*

The cowherd is proud of his animals that flourish for the well-being of everyone.

6. **MUA KA-TU Ka-Tu Dance** (6:34)

*Orchestra*

Dance of the Ka-Tu minority (High Plateau of Tay-Nguyen of the center of Vietnam) which celebrates the good harvest of rice.

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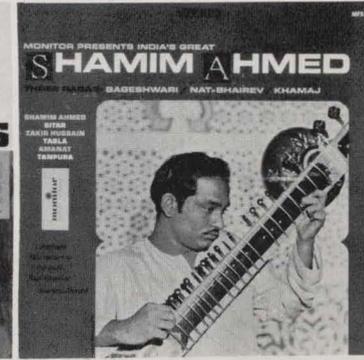
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