

STEREO

MFS 740

INSTRUMENTAL  
MUSIC  
OF  
THE  
NEAR EAST

**monitor**  
MUSIC OF THE WORLD

MUSIC FOR  
**Belly  
Dancing**

DESIGN: EDWARD BUXBAUM

# Music for Belly Dancing

*Instrumentals from the Near East* • Anestos Athounasiou & His Ensemble

**RETURN TO ARCHIVE**

CENTER FOR FOLK LIFE PROGRAMS  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



Georgos Koros, Violin

## Side One

1. **STAVRODROMI** 3:00  
Crossroads of Life
2. **OTAN KLENE THIO KARTHIES** 3:15  
When Two Hearts Cry  
(Tsifte-Telli)
3. **O HOROS TIS TAVERNAS** 4:00  
Dance of the Taverna  
(Hora)
4. **MIA NIHTA MAYEMENI** 2:35  
One Magic Night  
(Tsifte-Telli)
5. **SMYNEIKO** 2:20  
Dance of Smyrna  
(Karsilama)
6. **TO PARAPONO TON EROTEVMENON** 2:55  
A Lover's Lament  
(Tsifte-Telli Sambakh)

The selections on this album have been chosen to represent a cross-section of typical Middle Eastern Gypsy music. It is extremely difficult to identify the exact derivation of each melody since they are all a combination of Turkish, Arabic, and Greek, in varying degree.

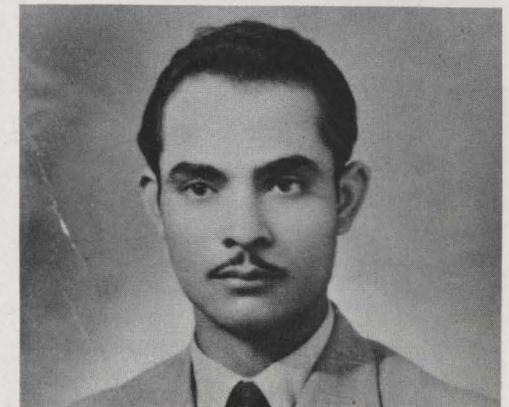
The pulsating rhythms lend themselves to the Middle Eastern form of dancing popularly referred to as "belly dancing." There are two essential categories: the TSIFTE-TELLI, a slow, sensuous, seductive dance in which the majority of steps are executed by the torso and the hands to a 7/8 beat; and the KARSILAMA, a light, happy, spirited melody in which the figures are predominantly footwork, danced to a 9/8 rhythm.

The use of both the clarinet and the violin in the same selection is traditional, rather than accidental. At times, they blend, while at other times, they reply to one another, giving the music a specific flavor. Another major factor in this type of music is the use of the bouzouki, a double-stringed instrument that resembles a mandolin with an elongated neck, and emanates a rather plaintive tone.

These melodies which originated as simple strains, have been embellished throughout the years as they have journeyed from one country to another with the nomadic Gypsies, until they have achieved the complicated integration and harmony of their present state which can be described only as exciting and vibrant.

Notes by Artemis Lage

Cover photo of Belly Dancer Sultana Noga by Tasso Mavris.



Vasilios Sala, Clarinet

## Side Two

1. **ARAPINES** 2:40  
Arabian Girl
2. **TSIGANIKO KLAMA** 3:25  
Gypsy Tears  
(Tsifte-Telli Rast)
3. **TSIGANIKI AGAPI** 3:40  
Gypsy Love  
(Tsifte-Telli Rast)
4. **ASIMENIO FENGARI** 2:25  
The Silver Moon  
(Karsilama-Oushak)
5. **MILAO ME TA ASTERIA** 3:00  
I Talk to the Stars  
(Tsifte-Telli-Oushak)
6. **HORO TIS NIFIS** 2:25  
Bridal Dance  
(Karsilama-Gouzam)

## Music from the Near East and Middle East on Monitor Records



**BELLY DANCE MUSIC:** The Flames of Araby Orchestra, vocals by George Abdo. **MFS 721**



**TURKISH DANCES:** Longa ve Sirtolar Instrumentals conducted by Hüsnü Özkartal. **MFS 739**



**DANCE THE GREEK WAY:** The Bouzoukee of Takis, produced and directed by Tasso Mavris. **MFS 722**



**TURKEY:** Songs & Dances. Soloists, Chorus and Ensembles of Radio Ankara. **MFS 403**



**NOW SOUNDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST:** George Mgrdichian, Oud, and his Ensemble in Turkish & Armenian selections. **MFS 709**