

SOUNDSCAPES: The Arab World

Vocabulary

ADHAN	The Islamic call to prayer.
AL-ANDALUS	Around 1000 CE, the area now called Spain and part of North Africa.
AL-QAHIRAH	The Arabic name for Cairo, Egypt.
ARDHA	A traditional Arabic dance, common in Saudi Arabia.
AS-SANTOOR	A multi-stringed instrument played with wooden sticks.
BEDOUIN	Nomadic people of the Arabian and North African desert.
BENDIR	A round, flat, wooden-framed drum.
BERBER	Indigenous people of the North African desert
CHA'ABI/SHA'ABI	A style of dance and music popular in some poorer Arab communities.
DABKE	A traditional line dance, popular in Lebanon.
DALOONAH	Improvised music often used with DABKE.
DERVISH	Devout SUFI Muslims, similar to Christian monks.
DJELLABA	A tunic, often worn by BERBER men.
DJEMBE	A West African drum, similar to a DUMBOK.
DUMBOK	A goblet-shaped ceramic drum.
GHUTRA	A headdress worn to protect against desert heat.
HAJJ	An annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia by Muslim faithful.
HAQIBA	Sudanese wedding music.
HIJAB	The Arabic word for modesty.
HOMAYNI	Sung poetry, popular in Yemen.
IQA'	Rhythmic patterns used in Arabic music.
JALABIA	Colorful Sudanese dresses.
KANON	A musical form, German for canon, derived from QANUN.
LEVANT	The geographic area to the east of the Mediterranean Sea.

MAFRAJ	A window-lined room at the top of a house.
MAGHREB	The North African desert.
MAQAM	Scales and notes that define Arabic music tonality.
MINARET	Part of a MOSQUE, a tower used for communication.
MIZHWIZ	A double-pipe double-reed wind instrument.
MIZMAR	A single-pipe double-reed wind instrument.
MOSQUE	An Islamic place of worship.
NAY	An end-blown wind instrument.
OSTINATO	Italian musical term for a repeating pattern.
LOUD/AL-'UD	A pear-shaped string instrument, similar to a lute.
QANUN	A large, flat multi-stringed instrument.
RABABEH	A single-stringed bowed fiddle.
REBEC	The European version of the REBABEH, precursor to the violin.
RIQ/TAR	A round, flat, wooden-framed drum with jingling plates around the rim, similar to a tambourine.
SAWT	A bluesy style of Arabic music, popular in Kuwait and Bahrain.
SIMSIMIYYA	A type of musical lyre, popular in Northern Egypt.
SOUK	An Arabic marketplace.
SUFI	A mystical belief in the Islamic faith, practiced by the DERVISH.
TAARAB	A musical style from Egypt, popular in Comoros.
TAQSIM	Musical improvisation.
TURBAN	An Arabic head scarf.
ZAJAL	Improvised, interactive poetry with musical accompaniment, popular in Jordan.
ZILL	Small finger cymbals.