

Songs from Afghanistan reworked by Colin Lloyd Tucker.

Colin has brought these beautifully performed songs into the 21st Century adding western drums, bass, brass, guitars, keyboards and all manner of studio wizardry with the hope that more of the world will share in Afghanistan's joyous music making.

The untreated songs can be found on Lyrichord Records album 'Afghanistan – Music from Kabul'. See below.

About these recordings with extracts from original sleeve notes

<http://www.lyrichord.com/linernotes/LAS7259US.pdf> ;

Jalalabad Wedding Song sung in Pashtu by Kamar Gul Zakhail with new arrangement, additional backing and production by Colin Lloyd Tucker.

Outside of Kabul, in the provinces, it is very difficult for a young man or young woman to get away alone, without a chaperone, to meet with each other. One of the many schemes used to counteract this custom, slow to die in Afghanistan, is that both agree to fetch water from the well or spring at the same time and thus steal a few minutes in relative privacy. This song is about a young woman who is waiting for her boyfriend who had promised to come to meet her but he is not there. She laments this fact as she fills up her pot with water and carries it away on her head.

The original recording was made by Verna Gillis in 1972 with Karma Gul Zakhail – vocals, Mohammad Zakhai – harmonium, Ustad Mohammad Omar - rebab Ghazi - tabla, Sarwar - tanbur.

Lovesong from Nangahar sung in Pashtu by Mr. Nahmattullah with new arrangement, additional backing and production by Colin Lloyd Tucker.

*"Oh my dear, I love your charming dark eyes,
I hope you have not forgotten me.
Come here so I can see you.
Why are you so shy?"**

**The man sees his girlfriend working in the fields and although she has agreed to meet with him she now appears afraid to do so.*

The original recording was made by Verna Gillis in 1972 with Mr. Nahmattullah – vocals, Mohammad Zakhail – harmonium, Ustad Mohammad Omar – rebab, Ghazi – tabla

Original recordings can be found in the excellent Lyrichord Archive:

<http://lyrichord.com/afghanistan-musicfromkabul.aspx>

You can also hear the complete album on Spotify – search 'Afghanistan Music from Kabul'

Help put the music back into Afghanistan

Imagine a world void of music; no singing, no instruments, no radio, nothing, just a big silent hole where melodies and symphonies should be. Well, for five years, that was exactly how it was in Afghanistan. In 1996, when the oppressive Taliban regime took hold of the country, they outlawed music, and burned and destroyed all the instruments they could find. The upshot of this is a country that has had its soul cruelly confiscated, leaving a whole generation or two of Afghans to grow up without a freedom that in the West is taken completely for granted. Radio stations were destroyed, recordings obliterated, and the threats toward players were being carried out. Many were killed.

There is, however, hope.

Since 2008, musicologist and Afghan native Dr. Ahmad Sarmast has headed a new project at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) that aims to help rebuild musical life in the country.

Here is an extract from an interview with Dr Sarmast conducted in August 2010

Do you have any other plans for the near future?

Once we have fully implemented the Kabul center, we have plans to spread the idea to Mazar-e Sharif and to establish a second school there. We are also planning a third school in Herat and a fourth in Jalalabad

Given the current situation of unrest and the apparently ever-growing power of the Taliban, aren't you afraid that music might well be silenced again in the short term?

I am a very optimistic man - otherwise, I would not be here now. But more important is the fact that music has always been present in Afghanistan. Even during the Taliban regime, people would smuggle records and cassettes at the risk of their lives. Drivers would always have two kinds of music: the kind they liked, but also the Muslim chants in case they ran across Taliban officials and had to swap the tapes. Afghans have always loved music.

Interview: Karlos Zurutuza (gsw)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dr-Sarmasts-Music-School-Afghanistan/149183255152029?ref=ts>

<http://www.afghanistannationalinstituteofmusic.org/>

Please support all endeavors to free the creative spirit where ever it is being suppressed.



