

Kurdish Music

Music features in every Kurdish celebration. Kurdish shepherds play the flute (*shemshal, may* or *nay*) while minding sheep in the mountains. There are two kinds of drum, one is the *tapel* or *timpo* that rests on the knees and is played with ten fingers, and the other is the large *dohul*, which hangs from the neck and is played with one thick drumstick and one thin drumstick. Stringed instruments include the *dootar*, with two strings and a very long neck, a *sehtar* with three strings and the *baglama* with six strings. Other instruments have been introduced from other cultures, including the *zorna*, an Arabian high-pitched woodwind instrument, and the Iranian *tar*, or two bowed six-stringed instrument.

In classical music of the Middle East there are 12 styles or *maqams*, each *maqam* having its own characteristic notes, chords, rhythms and tempos, with multiple offshoots. Seven Kurdish *maqams* are shared with Arabic music, although the Kurdish *maqams* are distinct. Among the seven are *mahoor* for dancing; *shoor* for sad songs and love songs; *homa'yon* for very slow, sad, soft songs, which can be about love; and *rast panjgah* for praising God. Another five *maqams* are peculiar to Kurdistan: *Khurshidi* is based on folklore; *La'ook* is for other storytelling; *hayran* is for love stories; *qataru alawaysi* is for classical Kurdish poetry and *horra* is for praising God. These skills date back to the time of the Medes.

Great Kurdish musicians and Sorani singers include Saed Ali Azghari Kurdistani, Mazhari Khalaqi, Rasoul Ghadi, Ali Merdan, Tahir Tofeq, Hasan Zirek, Khalil Zadeeki, Muhammad Mamli and Aziz Shahrokh. Sivan Perwer sings in Kurmanji. Other Kurmanji musicians and singers include the classicists, Mihemed Arif Cizrawi, Evdale Zeynike Miryem Xane, Eyse San, Nizamettin Aric (Feqiye Teyra), and modernists, Yalda Abbasi, Rapzan Belagat, Hakan Ener and Serhado.



Kurdish musicians 'Zana', Istanbul.

Source: <https://i.ytimg.com/vi/TxRqgfzQtco/maxresdefault.jpg>

Some links to Kurdish music:

<http://blog.mideastunes.com/post/114647295996/10-kurdish-musicians-you-should-know>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqguj2cv_ml

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jv5ExvXcDr4&list=PL0Cw_NCXwDB2nR48tWS6d8vED-luTMkhZ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCHemLOYVqc>



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