

Intro to World Music

- General Characteristics of Middle Eastern Music
 - improvisation plays an important role
 - melody
 - elaborate with much ornamentation
 - vocal music uses **melismas**
 - generated from quarter-tone scales
 - rhythm - based on standard beat patterns
 - texture - heterophony
- Religions of the Region
 - Judaism
 - Christianity
 - Islam
- The Musical Divide of Islam
 - Orthodox Attitudes
 - Music is *not* sanctioned by Islamic texts.
 - It distracts the senses better focused on spiritual existence.
 - Chanting of Qur'an verses in religious ceremonies are an exception.
 - Instances of Islamic governments banning secular music
 - Progressive Attitudes
 - Music *is* consistent with Islamic texts
 - It can enhance meaning and provoke spiritual ecstasy.
 - Music (sometimes including instruments) is used in certain rituals
 - Secular music tolerated
- Qira'ah
 - chanting of Qur'an verses
 - characteristics:
 - unaccompanied
 - nonpulsatile
 - melismatic
 - influential on secular Arabic vocal and instrumental music
 - audio example: the *Adhan* (call to prayer)
- Instruments of the Region
 - Chordophones
 - lutes
 - 'ud or oud
 - tanbur
 - tar
 - fiddles
 - rabab
 - kamanche
 - zithers
 - santur
 - qanun
 - Aerophones
 - nay (flute)
 - arghurl (single reed)
 - zurna (double reed)
 - technique: circular breathing
 - Membranophones

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- darbukkah (a.k.a tabla, serbaki, or doumbek)
- daff