

TARAB TRIO

Aman hey Aman

Wege nach Kurdistan

1	Golden Dreams	K: Javad Maroufi	2:51
2	Derwesch Abdi / Syrtos	K: trad.	6:49
3	Chanbadji	K: trad.	3:24
4	Cecen Kızı	K: Tanburi Cemil Bey	3:14
5	Sirwan	K: trad.	6:06
6	Aman hey Aman	K: trad.	2:50
7	Nikriz Peşrev	K: Ali Ufki Bey	7:43
8	Malan Barkir	K: trad.	3:41
9	Dile Kutchelo / Gole Sangam	K: trad.	3:42
10	Mali Schiril	K: Muhamad Ciwad Amuri	3:36
11	Izmir Zeybegi	K: trad.	4:21
12	Schiwane hey Schiwane	K: trad.	2:53

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Many paths lead out of Kurdistan...

Azad Shahwaysi, born 1981 in Saqqez in western Iran, worked as a baker and taxi driver, before joining the Peshmerga of the Kurdish Komala Party. In the mountainous border region between Iran and Iraq he fought against the Iranian regime and the IS. After some years he fled to Turkey and came to Germany via Bulgaria and Hungary in 2014. Already as a child he had started playing the santur, the Persian hammered dulcimer. Today Azad works as a bus driver in Dusseldorf.

Redur Saher (*1993) comes from an extended Yesidi family in Shingal, a town in North Iraq. He started a technical training in the oil industry. When his home region was overrun by the IS who began a massacre of the Yesidi people in 2014 he fled to the nearby mountains. He managed to escape to Turkey and travelled on to Germany via the Balkan route. Saher works as a sound engineer in a studio in Solingen.

In 2015 Azad Shahwaysi and Redur Saher joined a music project for refugees that harpist **Tom Daun** (*1956) had organized. A close musical and personal friendship developed. Tarab Trio have performed in many concerts and festivals and also offers workshops with Kurdish and oriental music.

Many paths lead to Kurdistan...

For Azad Shahwaysi und Redur Saher these paths are blocked. Tarab Trio embarks on an imaginary musical journey to the Orient – following the route along which the two musicians came to Germany: Kurdish songs of love, sorrow and the struggle for freedom, melodies from the shores of the Aegean sea and music of the Ottoman tradition, instrumental dance tunes.

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Wege nach Kurdistan

1 Golden Dreams

A romantic instrumental piece by Iranian pianist and composer Javad Maroufi (1919 – 1994), son of a well-known Persian tar-virtuoso. In his works Maroufi combined motifs of traditional music with western elements.”

2 Derwesch Abdi / Syrtos

In the oral tradition of the Yesidi the story of the young hero Derwesch Abdi takes up a prominent place. He died about 200 years ago in the fight for freedom against hostile troops. The extensive epic exists in many different versions and is performed in recitative style – this can last for several hours.

Derwesch Abdi, courageous, strong and skilled in sword-fighting falls in love with the daughter of a Kurdish Muslim pasha – who is strongly against the liaison, because the young man is no Muslim. However the father promises that he will grant him his daughter as wife under the condition that Derwesch Abdi joins him in his fight against the Ottoman troops.

The short passage in our recording tells of the visit of the pasha’s messengers to Derwesch Abdi. With music on zuran (oboe) and davul (drum) they persuade him to help the Kurdish clan. In the following verse the Yesidi fighter has arrived at the court of the pasha – and is welcomed by him:

„Come on, Derwesch, take a seat next to me on the divan!”

But Derwesch Abdi laughs:

“You are friendly now – but only because you need my help.

Otherwise you call us Yesidi “thieves of donkeys”

And never would you allow any of us to marry one of your girls.”

We have combined the epic of Derwesch Abdi with the melody of “Syrtos Mavrommatis” from the island of Cyprus.

3 Chanbadji

Instrumental version of a Kurdish love song from Iran, played on santur and tambur, a tiny long necked lute with two strings from the Yesidi tradition.

4 Cecen Kızı

A composition by tanbur player Cemil Bey (1873 – 1916) who was a renowned virtuoso and music scholar in the Ottoman court orchestra in Istanbul. The piece is dedicated to a Chechen girl.

5 Sirwan

In 1988, during the first Gulf War, the Iraqi air force bombed the Kurdish town Halabdscha using poison gas and killing more than 5000 people – amongst them many fighters of the Peshmerga of the Komala party. Desperate rebels hurled themselves into the floods of Sirwan river – preferring to drown rather than being captured by their enemies. An anonymous author penned this bitter lament:

*„Please stay here, don't leave us.
Without you our lives make no sense
My thoughts will be bitter and dark.”*

*“Let Sirwan river take me away,
His waves shall carry me away
And bring me to my comrades.”*

6 Aman hey Aman

A well-known Kurdish folk melody from Iran. The plaintive cry “Aman hey Aman” expresses despair and heartsickness in many oriental songs.

7 Nikriz Peşrev

After an adventurous odyssey Wojciech Bobowski (1610 – 1675) – a Polish musician – ended up in the sultan's court orchestra in Konstantinopel, where he became known under the name Ali Ufki Bey. He is said to be the first to note down melodies of the Ottoman classical tradition.

8 Malan Barkir

*„All the families have moved away to foreign lands
Oh my sweet love!*

*We are the victims of carnivores.
Oh my sweet love, mistress of my house!
I am an orphan now, lonely and lost.*

*Oh my sweet love!
I am hurt and helpless.”*

In 1934 the government in Ankara passed a “law of settlement” with the aim of evicting non Turkish people from the country. The Anatolian region of Dersim was to be completely depopulated. The Kurdish Alevi population resisted the measures. The rebellion of 1937/38 was the last big Kurdish insurgency in Turkey and was suffocated in the bloody Dersim massacre.

9 Dile Kutchelo / Gole sangam

„Dile Kutchelo“ – “Little heart” – a nostalgic instrumental melody from the Kurdish part of Iran. The following piece “Gole Sangam” – “Flower from Stone” – was composed in the 1970s and became a famous popular melody in Iran. It deals with unrequited love.

10 Mali Schiril

A song in Arabic that became a hit by the interpretation of Iraqi pop singer Hussein Ni'ma in the 1970s..

*„I go to the bazaar
I have nothing to do there, I don't want to buy anything
I go to the bazaar because I want to see you.”*

11 Izmir Zeybegi

A Turkish-Greek dance melody from the Aegean region – traditionally in a slow 9/8 metre.

12 Schiwane hey Schiwane

The daughter of the wealthy farmer is in love with the boy serving as a shepherd for her father. This comforts the young lad who is badly paid for his hard work in the rough mountains. A lively Kurdish folk song from the mountainous west part of Iran.

Tarab Trio:

Azad Shahwaysi (santur, voice)

Saher Issa (saz, tambur, voice)

Tom Daun (Celtic harp)

Guests:

Anneke Frankenberg (violin)

Rafael Daun (bagpipes)

All arrangements: Tarab Trio

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