

Rhythms of the Arab World

Common Rhythms

The following rhythms can be heard in popular music and classical music alike. Each rhythm is often performed with several variations. Although some are rhythmically similar, subtle differences in tempo and feel are common.

Wahda Kabira

Wahda Shami (Malfuf)

Wahda al-Qasa'id

Wahda Sagira (Maqsoum)

Wahda Mijwizah (Ciftitelli)

Masmudi Kabir

Masmudi Saghir (Baladi)

Saidi

Nawari

Falahi

Khaligi

Ayyub

Samai Thaqil

Samai Sankin

Yuruk Samai

Dawr Hindi

Rhythms from Outside Influences

The following rhythms gained popularity in the Middle East as a result of intercultural exchange. Many prominent composers, including Mohamed Abdel Wahab, utilized these rhythms in their compositions.

Mambo Saghir (Karachi)

Rhumba Saghira

Rhumba Kabira

Mambo Kabir (Bolero)

Vox

Long Muwashahat Rhythms

Muwashahat frequently utilize complex rhythms to correspond to the poetic phrases of the muwashah. The muwashahat form originated in Al-Andalus, Spain.

Mudawwar Masri (Egypt)

Murabbaa

Muhajjar

Awfar

Hazaj

Shanbar Halabi

Sources

Baklouk, Michel Merhej, and Nicole LeCorgne. *Classical Riqq Technique*. Mel Bay Publications, 2011.

Farraj, Johnny, Sami Abu Shamajs, Tareq Abboushi, and Najib Shaheen. "Arabic Maqam World", 2007. <http://www.maqamworld.com> (accessed November 16, 2012).

Notation Key:

Dum Tek

