

Music in Islamic Reform



Right: Sufis perform qawwali, a genre of music popular in Pakistan and India. The lyrics of each song are Sufi poetry, sayings of saints, and Qur'anic quotes. The ensemble includes a leader singer, backup singers, harmoniums (seen in the picture), various percussion instruments, and a backup group for added vocals and rhythmic clapping.

Picture Source:



Left: Whirling Dervishes of the Turkish Mevlevi Sufi order perform *semâ*. The constant spinning represents the cosmos. The dancers enter a meditative state that they believe brings them closer to Allah. They dance to a music played by a Sufi ensemble that includes traditional instruments.

Picture Source:

Whirling Dervishes

Sammi Yusuf- The Gift of Love

Cat Stevens/Yusuf Islam

Sammi Yusuf- Silent Words

Call to Prayer (adhan)

Mercan Dede



Bollywood Qawwali

Qawwali by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

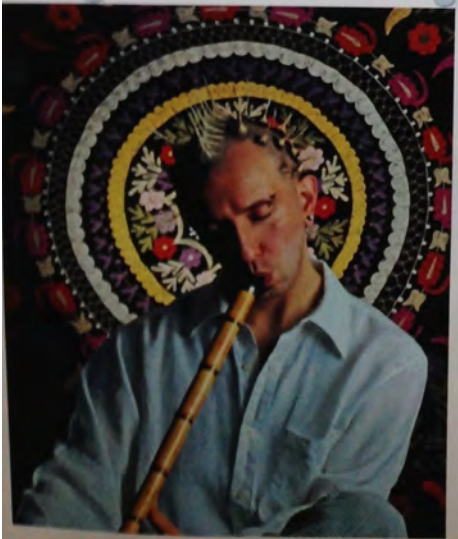
Left: Mercan Dede plays the bendir, a traditional drum

Yusuf Islam

Yusuf Islam Interview

The Koran

Poetic Pilgrimage



Left: Turkish artist, Mercan Dede, pictured playing his ney. The ney is a traditional flute instrument. Dede combines classical Sufi music and electronic sounds and performs concerts with Mevlevi dancers on stage.

Picture Source:

Right: Poetic Pilgrimage is an Islamic hip-hop, feminist rap. The hip-hop group was formed in 2008 and started using their talents to issue hip-hop music that is both socially and politically aware. The group has been accused of being misogynistic for several reasons, but they have also been praised for their use of Islamic and feminist themes.

Picture Source:

