



# Making Music in the Arab World: The Culture and Artistry of Tarab (Cambridge Middle East Studies)

By A. J. Racy

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## Making Music in the Arab World: The Culture and Artistry of Tarab (Cambridge Middle East Studies) By A. J. Racy

A. J. Racy is well known as a scholar of ethnomusicology and as a distinguished performer and composer. In this pioneering book, he provides an intimate portrayal of the Arab musical experience and offers insights into how music generally affects us all. The focus is tarab, a multifaceted concept that has no exact equivalent in English and refers to both the indigenous music and the ecstatic feeling associated with it. Richly documented, the book examines various aspects of the musical craft, including the basic learning processes, how musicians become inspired, the love lyrics as tools of ecstasy, the relationship between performers and listeners, and the influence of technological mediation and globalization. Racy also probes a variety of world musical and ecstatic contexts and analyses theoretical paradigms from other related disciplines. Written in a lucid style, *Making Music in the Arab World* will engage the general reader as well as the specialist.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

"A.J. Racy is perhaps the most important and well known scholar of Arab music and culture, and his book "Music Making in the Arab World: The Culture and Artistry of Tarab" is required reading not only for scholars of the Middle East and ARab world but also for musicians and scholars interested in the juncture between musical ideology and experience...provides great insight not only into what people think about music but also into the life experience of this scholar, teacher, and musician." --Anne K. Rasmussen, The College of William and Mary: Ethnomusicology

#### **About the Author**

Jihad Racy is Professor of Ethnomusicology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and one of the leading experts on music in the Arab world. He is a performer and composer in his own right.

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