

# Traditional Eastern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Folk Rhythms:

## Focus for Learning:

- ✓ The characteristic rhythmic features of Eastern Mediterranean and Arabic folk rhythms - mainly traditional Greek and Palestinian music.
- ✓ The irregular metres often found in the folk dances of these regions
- ✓ Structure and texture and how the musical parts are combined

## Language for Learning:

- ✓ Irregular metre (5/8, 7/8, etc)
- ✓ Irregular *emphasis* of beats, eg. 8 beats divided 3+3+2
- ✓ Accent / accentuation
- ✓ Syncopation
- ✓ Mode / modal
- ✓ Parallel melodic lines
- ✓ Microtonal
- ✓ Ornament
- ✓ Improvise
- ✓ Chords / harmony
- ✓ Phrasing
- ✓ Cadence



## Instruments often used:

- ✓ Lute-type instruments - Bouzouki (Greek), Oud (Arabic)
- ✓ Violin / fiddle
- ✓ Goblet drum / Doumbek
- ✓ Tambourine (can be labelled 'Defi' or 'Daf' or 'Riq' in Greek and Arabic countries)



## Tracks to listen to:

### Middle Eastern:

- ✓ The Lamekan Ensemble: *Hicaz Mandra*
- ✓ Israeli Folk Dances Vol. 2 (*Let's Dance*): *Hora Medura*

### Greek:

- ✓ Various Artists: *Na Chamilonan Ta Vouna*
- ✓ Dilek Koc: *Ninno Yavrum-oso Eisai Makria Mou*