

Nubian Folk Music

Some of the first kingdoms in Africa rose up in an ancient region called Nubia, which encompassed the central Nile valley, in what is modern-day southern Egypt and northern Sudan. Ancient Nubian kingdoms were in such close relations with the ancient Egyptian civilization that some Nubian kings even became Egyptian pharaohs around 750 B.C. One of the cultural legacies passed down from ancient Nubia is its music. Nubian folk music has its roots in the land: many songs were inspired by their farming customs and the changing of the seasons. Nubian music has also been inspired by love and religion. The main components of traditional Nubian music generally include the playing of the *oud* (a predecessor to the guitar), the *rababa* (a fiddle, with one to three strings), the *daf* (a sort of mix between a drum and a tambourine), clapping, snapping and call-and-response singing. Among the most popular musicians to continue the tradition of Nubian folk music in contemporary times was a man named Hamza el-Din.

Leylet en Nuktah

Another ancient tradition that has survived the test of time is a festival called Leylet en Nuktah. In ancient times, Egyptians worshipped and gave thanks for the Nile River, and the life provided by its water and fertile soils. The festival aligns with the annual flooding of the Nile. Today, Leylet en Nuktah is celebrated on June 17th of each year. Egyptians celebrate by picnicking along the edges of the Nile and celebrating together in the streets. It is also tradition for the women in every family to put out balls of dough at sunset for each person in the household. In the morning, they look at the cracks in the dough to make predictions about each person's fortune and future.

Links:

- Tour of Egypt - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBduAiC2-XM>
- Nubian folk music - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAPfjrVb650>

