



Sufi Soul

The Mystic Music Of Islam

DVD
VIDEO

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For hundreds of millions of Sufi followers worldwide, music is at the heart of their tradition and a way of getting closer to God. From the Whirling Dervishes of Turkey to the *qawwali* music of Pakistan, Sufism has produced some of the world's most spectacular music celebrated by Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Dalrymple's film traces the shared roots of Christianity and Islam in the Middle East and discovers Sufism to be a peaceful, tolerant and pluralistic bastion against fundamentalism.

As Muslim extremists dominate the headlines, writer and historian, William Dalrymple, explores an altogether different side of Islam in this DVD documentary. *Sufi Soul: The Mystic Music of Islam*, follows Dalrymple on a personal journey into the mystical and musical side of Islam as he charts the traditions of Sufi music in Syria, Turkey, Pakistan, India and Morocco.

For 1400 hundred years there has been a debate within Islam between liberal Sufi and orthodox approaches. For millions of Sufi followers worldwide, music is at the heart of their tradition; a crucial vehicle for getting closer to God. This is at direct odds with fundamentalist Islam which either disapproves of music or, at its most extreme, thinks it should be banned. This has led to varying degrees of Sufi persecution by fellow Muslims over the centuries.

Taking many different forms across the Islamic world - from the **Whirling Dervishes** of Turkey to the **Qawwali** music of Pakistan or the Grammy-winning CD, Egypte, by **Youssou N'Dour** - Sufism has produced some of the world's most spectacular and inspirational music celebrated by Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Exactly where and when Sufism began is difficult to say, but it's often forgotten that Islam and Christianity have shared roots in the Middle East. Dalrymple's film traces this common history, and discovers Sufism to be a peaceful, tolerant and pluralistic bulwark against fundamentalism.

Sufi Soul shows the music in its authentic, live setting in Sufi shrines and meeting places across the Islamic world, but also how it's a part of popular culture. In Pakistan it features the late **Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan**, his nephew **Rahat Fateh Ali Khan**, **Abida Parveen**, the extraordinary Sufi troubadour **Sain Zahoor** and Pakistan's most popular pop group **Junoon**. In Turkey there's ney player **Kudsi Erguner**, Whirling Dervishes from Istanbul and the club-Sufi **Mercan Dede**. Dalrymple also charts the worldwide impact of Rumi, the 13th century Sufi mystic who was - perhaps surprisingly - the best-selling poet in America in the 1990s. The film closes in Morocco at the **Fes Festival of Sacred Music** where the ideals of Sufism are extended to embrace faiths worldwide. The Senegalese star **Youssou N'Dour** performs a song celebrating one of the Sufi saints of Fes. "Before the recent problems, for the majority of Muslims Islam was always a religion of peace and tolerance. I believe music can correct the image of Islam".

Director, **Simon Broughton**, a recognised authority on world music, is co-editor of *The Rough Guide to World Music*, and editor of the World Music magazine, *Songlines*.

DVD Extras features extended performances by **Kudsi Erguner**, **Sain Zahoor**, **Rahat Fateh Ali Khan**, **Bhitshah Fakirs** and **Rokia Riman Jilala Band**.

'an intoxicating odyssey' *The Times*, UK

'a revelation' *The Observer*, UK

'needs to be seen by anyone who loves music' *Mail On Sunday*, UK

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