

The Oil Economy and the Perpetuation of Musical Heritage in Abu Dhabi

Supplementary material for Chapter 3, pages 32-49 in the book, [Music in Arabia](#).
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Celebrations of weddings of members of the royal families and other, celebratory governmental events in the United Arab Emirates typically took place in large outdoor spaces to which the public had access and were encouraged to attend. Many different musicians were invited to perform as part of these celebrations. These pictures were taken at the events by Mary Corrado, a long-time resident of Abu Dhabi, who generously shares them here.



Figure 1: 'Ayyāla performance at a royal wedding celebration at Mushrif Palace in Abu Dhabi, 1983. Courtesy of Mary Corrado.



Figure 2: Drummer in the procession in celebration of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Abu Dhabi, 1979. Courtesy of Mary Corrado.



Figure 3: Drummers and a habbān player at the celebration of Shaykh Hamad bin Hamdan's wedding, Abu Dhabi, 1982. Courtesy of Mary Corrado.



Figure 4: Drummers and singers from a group performing at the wedding celebration of Shaykh Suroor bin Muhammad, near Mushrif Palace, Abu Dhabi, 1983. Courtesy of Mary Corrado.



Figure 5: Mizmar player, preparing to perform for the celebration of the wedding of Shaykh Hamid bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, 1982. Courtesy of Mary Corrado.



Figure 6: Musicians, likely of African descent, performing at the celebration of Shaykh Hamid bin Hamdan's wedding, Abu Dhabi, 1983. Courtesy of Mary Corrado.'



Figure 7: Performance, possibly 'ayyāla, in welcome of Queen Elizabeth at her visit to Abu Dhabi in 1979. Courtesy of Mary Corrado.



Figure 8: Performing group of African descent at a celebration of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Abu Dhabi in 1979. Courtesy of Mary Corrado.



Figure 9: Preparing a drum before a performance at Shaykh Suroor bin Muhammad's wedding celebration, near Mushrif Palace, Abu Dhabi, 1983. Courtesy of Mary Corrado.



Figure 10: Tuning a drum during `ayyāla, wedding celebration of Shaykh Hamid bin Hamdan, Abu Dhabi, 1982. Courtesy of Mary Corrado.

Oman and the United Arab Emirates successfully prepared a [video application](#) for inscription on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list

This brief and informal video recording gives a sense of what it is like to experience a performance of al-`ayyāla, this one at the Qasr al-Hosn Festival in Abu Dhabi in 2016. The performance is led by an `ayyāla group from the city of Al Ain in Abu Dhabi and in the video the young girls serving as na `ishāt, as well as other local people, including children, are joining in. Participation is encouraged, if not expected. Of note is the number of Emiratis watching and filming the performance and the situation of the performance on the ground, right in the middle of the crowd, rather than apart, on a stage (although sometimes, especially for broadcast performances, stages are used).