



المركز الوطني  
للبحوث  
في عصور ما قبل التاريخ  
علم الإنسان  
والتاريخ

Centre  
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# Raiï

popular folk song of Algeria



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# Rai

Rai is an all-encompassing socio-anthropological and historical phenomenon in the sense that it is identified with the economic communities whose major events and historical upheavals it records, and which it accompanies in the form of aesthetic, artistic and symbolic practices, which are reworked and re-created continuously.





Cheikh Hamada

# Guellal and Gasba

Rai draws its roots from the 'Bedoui' genre, itself practiced at least since the 18th century by peasant and semi-nomadic pastoral communities of rural areas of Western Algeria. The musical and sung genre 'Bedoui' is based on an orchestration composed of a percussion instrument (Guellal) and two flutes (Guasba bourdon and soloist) and draws on written and sung texts of the high Bedouin poetry known as 'Chi'r el Melhoun' (sung poetry).

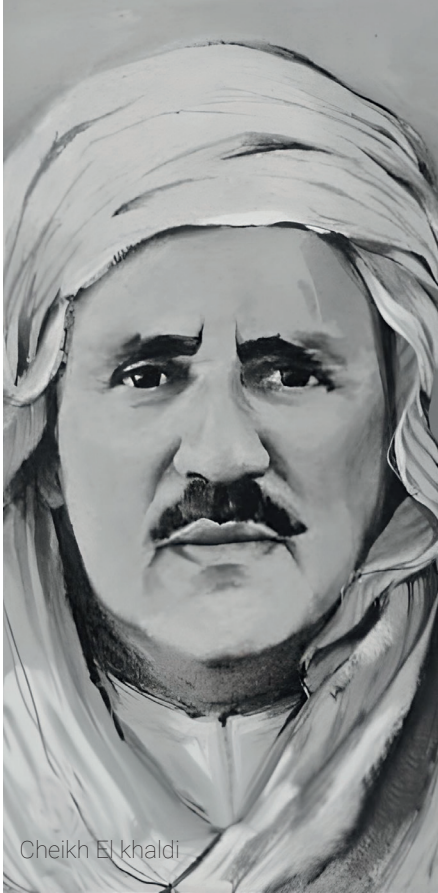


From the end 19th and the early 20th century, the phenomenon of colonization by settlement and the despoliation of agricultural land and the specialization of crops over vast areas, particularly in western Algeria, was followed by the substantial pauperization of the peasantry, leading to a first rural exodus towards towns and colonial urban settlements, which was to be accompanied by transformations in the forms of cultural expression.

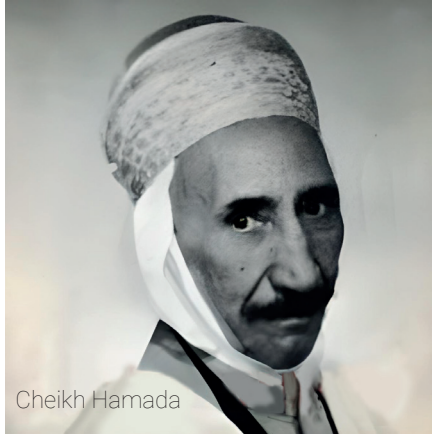


One of the most important changes in this musical and singing genre, while initially keeping the same orchestration, melodies, rhythms and instrumentation, was the introduction of new texts, still in Algerian Arabic, more anchored in the new realities, denouncing the colonial fate and the new miseries and more transgressive against all impediments and prohibitions.





Cheikh El khaldi



Cheikh Hamada

This was the era of Cheikh Hamada (1889-1968) from Mostaganem and Cheikh Khaldi (1896-1954) from Mascara, which would see, a little later, the increasing participation of women as singers, producers of texts and in orchestration as Cheikha Remitti (1923-2006) from Sidi Bel Abbes...



Cheikha Remitti





# Rai

Popular folk song of Algeria

With the country's independence in 1962, a second influx to the cities accentuated the movement of renewal and openness to the cultures of the world, which took shape with the emergence of numerous Rai singers, including more and more women who took hold of the text and became one of its subjects. The orchestration was also soon opened up by the introduction of the trumpet, new percussion instruments, the guitar, then the electric guitar, the rhythm box, the accordion and the piano.

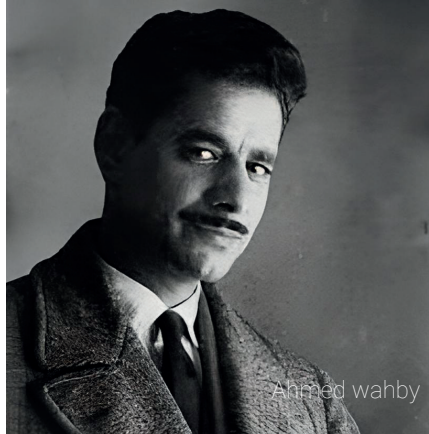


This phase also corresponded to the production of recordings, first on record sand then on audio cassettes, by numerous publishing houses such as «Disco-Maghreb» and that of Rachid Baba Ahmed of Oran (1946-1995), which became the capital of Rai and which thoroughly transformed the modes of distribution and promotion in Algeria as a whole, as well as in emigration and internationally, and drew in new audiences and new scenes.



Fadela  
Khaled  
Baba Ahmed  
Sahraoui

It was first the era of Ahmed Wahbi, Blaoui El Houari, Ahmed Saber... who took up, among others, the texts of Cheikh Khaldi gathered and published previously by Lehbib Hachelef, then that of the Cheb and Chabbat like Cheb Khaled, Cheb Mami, Chabba Zehouania, then Cheb Hasni (1968-1994), Chabba Djennet ... who, from the middle of the 1980s onwards, set out to conquer the media and organize major concerts, numerous festivals, symposiums and meetings where Rai found fertile ground for its international expression and its diversification into modern Rai, Pop-Rai or integrating Rock, Funk, Reggae and Disco.



Ahmed wahby



Blaoui El Houari



Cheikha Djenia

# Trumpet and...

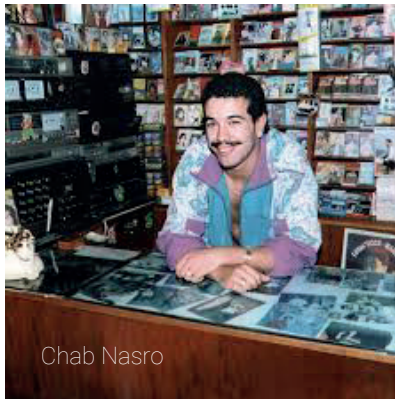


Bellemou



Zahouania

This is a broad outline of the historical anthropology of Rai as an artistic expression of heritage rooted in an artistic and symbolic genre of the peasant and pastoral West of Algeria and then urban, which has travelled with the history of the region, bearing witness to tumults, ruptures, upheavals, destinies and fate.



Chab Nasro

# Electric guitar

Its recent evolution has brought it to the international level through its practice for one or two generations, first in the Algerian emigration in Europe and then in the numerous Algerian diasporas settled in certain Arab countries, in Africa, in Asia and even in America... This is the time of Cheb Khaled, Faudel, Rachid Taha... and whose apogee was marked by the revival of certain productions





by highly reputed Algerian, European and American artists or the performances of a Dj Snake who sometimes composes and produces many of his products in Algeria.

# In concerts and festivals

The bearers, practitioners and cultural associations created around the element, devote themselves to its safeguarding, promotion and dissemination by all appropriate means. For its part, the Ministry of Culture and the Arts has been financing the annual Raiï festival in Oran, as it integrates concerts, seminars, study days and colloquia on Raiï into activities and events of the cultural heritage month which is held every year from April

18 to May 18, involves the element in the National Day of the Artist which takes place on June 08, inserts activities, reflections and performances of the artistic genre Raiï at all the cultural weeks organized in Algeria and abroad as well as during the major international events organized by Algeria.





Oran festival of Rai 2022



Mrs. Soraya Mouloudji, Minister of Culture and Arts at Oran festival of Rai 2022.



The nomination of «Raï, popular folk song of Algeria» for inclusion on the list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity is understood by Algeria, like all international nominations, as the will to make available for appreciation and sharing to the whole of humanity a representative cultural element of the intangible cultural heritage present, developed and recreated on its territory, like an artistic, poetic, musical and choreographic genre that offers itself to humanity to participate in the re-enchantment of the world.







Zahouania at Oran festival of Rai 2022

Cheikha Remitti and her orchestra





