

Joseph Malke

Joseph Gergis Malke Khuri was born in Qamishli in 1948. He studied music with the Syriac Scout Band where he played saxophone. His professional musical skills appeared when he played oriental accordion with the musical orchestra of the radio station of Damascus in 1968.

Joseph Malke began his music studies in the early 1960's under the teacher Hasan al-Turk playing saxophone. He played with a big brass band together with George Chachan, Riyad Nasrallah, Afram Shamun and other friends of the same generation. Joseph continued after to play saxophone and accordion with the same friends like a band under the direction of the composer Gabriel Asaad at the Cultural Center in Qamishli.

He composed his first Assyrian song "*Rhimto d-Leb*" (lyrics by Abrohom Lahdo) in Qamishli in 1967. It was followed by "*Thet Lamfido*" (lyrics by Hanna Lahdo).



Joseph Malke 1983

Joseph Malke studied the film arts in Spain at the beginning of the 1970's. A while after he moved to Sweden where he was the first professional Assyrian musician. In 1975 he founded the Babylon Music Group together with Afram Asaad on oud, George Sawma on derbakke, with the two brothers and deacons Boutros and Simon Hadrouli as singers. Boutros and Simon were the first Assyrian singers in Sweden performing. Joseph played on accordion. In 1977 the Babylon Music Group, conducted by Joseph Malke, played George Chachan's song "*Talo Sagi*" in Swedish national television. It was sung by Afram Asaad and the Swedish known singer Tommy Körberg. Afram sang in Assyrian, and Tommy in Swedish

In 1979 he arranged the music and composed almost all songs of a cassette sang by the Hadrouli brothers and Lina Haffo. This cassette included his "*Men Beth-Nahrin Athyo-No*" and other songs. He recorded in autumn 1981 the first album "*Azzen Azzen*" of Ninib A Lahdo which released the next year. This was the first and only Assyrian LP produced in Sweden. Moreover Joseph released two children songs' cassettes in 1980 and in 1983 with the Ishtar Music Group.

Malke's contribution in the field of the Assyrian music sustained continuously from the early sunrise of the folk songs in second half of the 1960's until now. Joseph Malke's touch is very distinguished. His glamorous oriental feeling gives his melodies a special taste. Joseph Malke has been a very active musician and composer. He composed around 70 songs. Many singers in Sweden have sung his songs. He has taught music at many associations in Sweden and has played music on Suroyo TV's live shows.

Some of his famous songs "*Tekh Hawro d-Helme*" (sang by Fuad Ispir in 1986), "*Rhimto d-Leb*" (Jalil Maiilo 1969, Ninib A Lahdo 1981), "*Tokhu Tokhu Habibe*" (Ninib A Lahdo 1981), "*Azzan Lu Shahro*" (Jacob Malki 1991), "*Krohmallokh Habib*" and "*Ishtar w-Tammuz*" (Juliana Jendo 1993). For children he composed "*Ethmol Emar Malfono*" (Boutros Hadrouli 1980), "*Tate Tate*" and "*Ad-Yawma Rishah d-Shato*" (both 1983) and many others.

In 2003 he produced a video cassette of children songs with Swedish subtitles.