

Music in *The Trojan Women*

The music used in this production is drawn from the collection, [Istanbul 1925](#) published by Traditional Crossroads. The album is a compilation of classical Turkish music by some of the greatest musicians of the early 20th century. The four selections used in the play are all Taqsim music, an improvisational piece often preceding the main composition.

- **Chorus' song:** Kurdili Hicazkar taksim (Udi Hrant Kenkulian, *oud*)
- **Interlude 1:** Hicaz taqsim (Udi Hrant Kenkulian, *oud*)
- **Interlude 2:** Huzzam taqsim (Udi Hrant Kenkulian, *oud*)
- **Closing song:** Huzzam taksim (Sukru Tunar, *clarinet*)

The similarity between the music in our production and ancient Greek music is not surprising. Turkish music is influenced by the many cultures that inhabited Anatolia including Greeks, Armenians, Jews, and Romani. Moreover, the two most widely instruments used in Ancient Greece were a double reed called Aulos, sounding a lot like the Turkish G clarinet and the Armenian duduk, and the string instrument, the Lyre, sounding much like a harp, Qanun or oud.

Based on musical fragments such as this one from the play *Orestes* by Euripides, we know music and song were major elements in classic Greek drama. While we don't know exactly what the music in performance sounded like, recent research such as [the work of Stefan Hagel](#) offers some possibilities.

Similarly, new information has emerged about choral songs prevalent in Greek drama. This [reconstruction of choral music from Euripides](#) is informative and fun. The choral melodies and harmonies in our production were entirely improvised by the cast.

