



Al Wazza

Other names:

"Zambara."



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Domain PERFORMING ARTS
MUSIC / SONGS / DANCE / INSTRUMENTS

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND LOCATION

Community groups

Groups of Alberta and Blue Nile State

Practitioners

Its usually played by the Berta people, mainly dominated by men.

Purpose / Use

Social celebrations, harvest festivals, biography ceremonies, weddings and important tribal gatherings and events.

Knowledge / Skills

The Waza instrument consists of about 10 trumpets, with ten of them considered essential while the rest are used to improve the sound of the other trumpets. Each instrument has its own special name and distinctive position within the group of trumpets used in terms of size and shape, enhancing the tonal range of the instrument group. It should be noted that the Waza group is responsible only for the melodic aspect, while the rhythmic aspect relies on the use of a piece called the "Bali," made of ebony wood, placed on the right shoulder of the player and struck with a goat horn or pig horn, giving the instrument both melodic and rhythmic characteristics. The Waza instruments consist of two groups, each group consisting of five instruments. The first group, known by the local name "Wazalu," carries the meaning of "son," and the smallest instrument in the band is played by the band leader himself. The "Waza Mashanq" resembles the sound of a female, and it is the second instrument in the group. The "Waza Aghir Bali" is responsible for shaping the rhythmic beats accompanying the Waza melodies. The "Waza Niharu Niharu" means the singer, and its sound is described as that of a divorced or widowed female. The "Waza Duul Duul" refers to the owl and emits a sound resembling that of an owl. The second group produces thicker sounds than the first group and is named after birds and animals. It also consists of five basic instruments, including the "Waza Azizagu," played by the musician as he shakes seeds or pebbles inside a gourd held in his right hand. The "Waza Ishingar" resembles the sound of a donkey among the Waza group. The "Waza Akundo" means the curved back, played by a musician who typically assumes a bent-back position. The "Waza Akrosh" is considered one of the longest instruments in the group, reaching up to two meters in length, and it means the sound of a lion.

Transmission

The presence of children within the group of musicians playing this instrument is evidence of the community's keenness to pass on this art to the new generations. This is the optimal way to transfer the knowledge and skills related to the craft of making the instrument and playing it.

Tools, Equipment, Services

The Waza horns are made from a special type of gourd plant called "Aqwa," which is a hollow-shaped gourd that grows in various sizes and lengths near homes, where a rack is built for it to climb on. The manufacturing process begins by placing these gourds, arranged in a circular shape on top of each other, starting from the largest to reach the opening where the player places it in their mouth, called the "Ash." The adjacent gourds are secured together with sticks, then strips of cane are prepared to the length of the manufactured horn and tied to the bark of trees on the outer wall of the horn to make it cohesive and prevent air leakage, so that each horn produces a distinct sound different from the others.

HISTORY

It is one of the very old and authentic instruments in the culture of the indigenous people. It does not have a specific date, but it is certain that it predates the Islamic and Christian periods in the history of Sudan and is directly linked to the beliefs and local rituals of the Berta groups. Some researchers attribute it to the Kingdom of Funj or the Blue Sultanate, while others trace it back to pre-Christian kingdoms in Sudan.

INTRODUCTION

The Waza instrument is part of the heritage of the Blue Nile region in Sudan. It is a set of horns made from the stems and bark of the calabash plant, as well as some goat and cow horns. The Waza instrument is particularly associated with the Berta tribes who inhabit the southern Blue Nile region, where music is intertwined with their social life and various rituals. The lengths and sizes of the Waza instrument vary, with each horn producing a different sound. The people of the Blue Nile region use the Waza instrument in many of their rituals and social events, especially in weddings. It is also used in various social occasions of the local community and is closely linked to the corn harvesting season, where the locals play tunes on it to express their happiness for the good that comes after the harvest seasons. Additionally, the Waza instrument is used as a means of public communication, as the tribal leader may strike the brass in some areas of Sudan to express something that has happened or might happen. The Berta tribe holds the Waza instrument in high regard compared to other musical instruments, with special rituals performed at the beginning of each harvest season, where sacrifices are made and the new corn production is chewed and sprinkled on the instrument before being stored in a designated place called the "House of Tradition" where the celebrations begin.

Cultural Value:

The music of Al-Waza plays a prominent role in that region, being present in most social events and celebrations, ranging from joyous occasions to moments of sorrow, as well as some official events. It is also used as a means of public communication, serving as a tool for national rallying, much like brass instruments in the cultures of other Sudanese tribes. Its practice is closely linked to the major celebrations of the region, such as harvest seasons and festivals.

Associated Practices:

Harvest celebrations, marriage ceremonies, announcements, national calling, and seasonal festivities.

Cultural Expressions

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VIABILITY

Threats:

Poor storage and exposure to rainwater can attract certain types of insects that feed on the plant material used to make the Wazza.

Natural Resources used

The translation of the Arabic text is: "Pumpkin plant, goat horns, pig and cow bark, gravel."

Image(s) source :

Link(s)