



## M. MASHABI AND HIS KELANA RIA ORCHESTRA Kafilah Nights: Malay- Arabic Variations From 1960s Indonesia

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Genre

**FILE UNDER - M - WORLD**

### DESCRIPTION

**Robert Johnson** of Indonesia's **Orkes Melayu** music finally comes out from the shadows. Between 1961 and 1964, **Kelana Ria** recorded 48 songs that were spread over four records, *Kafilah*, *Yam El Shamah*, *Ya Mahmud*, and *Ya Hamidah*, which became the primary sources for this compilation. In the early 1960s, two of the best talents in the Indonesian music scene, songwriter and band leader **Adi Karso** and Gambus musician **Munif Bahasuan** teamed up to form Orkes Melayu (Malay Orchestra) Kelana Ria. These four recordings changed the trajectory of Indonesian popular music. "Renungkanlah" has been covered by many countless other musicians in Indonesia and Malaysia and it has become a hit many times over. The song has become a go-to song in karaoke bars in the region, with fans oblivious to who actually wrote this song or who performed it the first time. Or take the song "Ratapan Anak Tiri" ("Lament of a Stepchild"), a song that has traversed national boundaries and has become a universal sad song in the Malay world, turning into a shorthand for melancholia that permeates this archipelago of nations. Another stunner is the melancholia-laden "Kesunyian Jiwa" ("Silence of the Soul"), an operatic tune so majestic that it could open any black and white **Kurosawa** film from the late 1940s. The songs and the soulful vocal performance belong to **Muhamad Mashabi**, who despite the popularity of the songs he created is now largely forgotten, whose history was kept alive only in the neighborhood where he grew up in Central Jakarta. With only a short musical career and only nine recorded songs from almost 40 compositions, Mashabi fell by the wayside in the early 1970s, especially with the rise of pop and rock from bands like **Koes Plus**, **Panbers**, and **God Bless**. Yet his songs, inspired by Malay traditional songs but performed in the modern studio setting, lay the foundations for what would become the biggest musical genre in the country, dangdut, especially the kind that was popularized by the self-styled king of the genre, **Rhoma Irama**.

### TRACKLISTING

01. Kesun yian Jiwa (Silence of the Soul)
02. Untuk Bungamu (For Your Flower)
03. Harapan Hampa (Empty Hope)
04. Ratapan Anak Tiri (Lament of a Step Child)
05. Jangan Menggoda (Don't Tease)
06. Hilang Tak Berkesan (Gone With No Trace)
07. Pantun Nasehat (Words of Wisdom)
08. Renungkanlah (Think About It)
09. Peristiwa Lama (Past Incidence)
10. Tujuan Bersama (Common Goal)
11. Jangan Mengharap (Don't Hold Out Hope)
12. Pesta Tjahaja (Festival of Light)
13. Seloka Gembira (Joyful Poem)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Between 1961 and 1964, **Kelana Ria** recorded 48 songs that were spread over four records, *Kafilah*, *Yam El Shamah*, *Ya Mahmud*, and *Ya Hamidah*, which became the primary sources for this compilation.
- The songs and the soulful vocal performance belong to **Muhamad Mashabi**, who despite the popularity of the songs he created is now largely forgotten.
- Mashabi's music was inspired by Malay traditional songs but performed in the modern studio setting, and lay the foundations for what would become the biggest musical genre in the country, dangdut.

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