



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

Label

**ELEVATION RECORDS**

Format

**LP**

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Territory

**U.S. EXCLUSIVE (No Exports)**

Genre

**FILE UNDER - M - WORLD**

### DESCRIPTION

In the early 1960s, two of the best talents in the Indonesian music scene, songwriter and band leader **Adi Karso**, known for his hits "Papaya Cha-Cha-Cha" and "Balonku" and Gambus musician **Munif Bahasuan** teamed up to form **Orkes Melayu (Malay Orchestra) Kelana Ria**. 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 become the primary sources for this compilation. These four recordings changed the trajectory of Indonesian popular music. 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

- A1. Kesunyian Jiwa (Emptiness of Soul)
- A2. Untuk Bungamu (For Your Flower)
- A3. Harapan Hampa (Empty Hope)
- A4. Ratapan Anak Tiri (Wailing of Adopted Child)
- A5. Djangan Menggoda (Don't Tease)
- A6. Hilang Tak Berkesan (Gone Without A Trace)
- A7. Pantun Nasehat (Words of Wisdom)
- B1. Renungkanlah (Think About It)
- B2. Penggoda Djiwa (Seducer of Soul)
- B3. Peristiwa Lama (Past Incidence)
- B4. Tudjuan Bersama (Common Goal)
- B5. Djangan Mengharap (Don't Hold Out Hope)
- B6. Pesta Tjahaja (Party of Light)
- B7. Seloka Gembira (Poetry of Joy)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Compilation of songs from *Kafilah*, *Yam El Shamah*, *Ya Mahmud*, and *Ya Hamidah*, four records from **Orkes Melayu Kelana Ria**.
- The songs and the soulful vocal performance belong to **Muhamad Mashabi**.
- Orkes Melayu Kelana Ria is composed of songwriter and band leader **Adi Karso** and Gambus musician **Munif Bahasuan**.

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