



OMAR KHORSHID Giant + Guitar

Label

WEWANTSOUNDS

Format

LP

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Genre

FILE UNDER - K - WORLD

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60 Lowell St, Arlington, MA 02476
ph: (781) 321-0320 • fx: (781) 321-0321
fe@forcedexposure.com

DESCRIPTION

Wewantsounds reissue Omar Khorshid's highly sought-after instrumental album *Giant + Guitar* originally released in 1974 in Lebanon and recorded at Polysound Studio by famed Lebanese engineer **Nabil Moutmaz**. The album features Khorshid's unique electric guitar sound mixed with Arabic melodies over superb psych arrangements. Omar Khorshid's life, if short (he died age 36 in a road accident), was extraordinary. Blessed with a great talent for music, the Egyptian musician and actor became one of the best guitarists of the Arab World accompanying the greatest stars of the '60s and '70s, including **Oum Kalthoum, Abdel Halim Hafez** and **Farid El Atrache**. To avoid the political troubles of the time in Egypt, and to fulfil his artistic ambitions, Khorshid moved to Beirut in Lebanon in 1973 and started recording a string of superb albums experimenting with oriental music. He recorded for several labels including Voice of Lebanon, one of the key Lebanese labels of the time. He released his first album *Giant + Guitar* for the label in 1974 and it was an instantly popular in the Arab world. The front cover sees Khorshid on his motorcycle in the busy street of Hamra, one of the most vibrant Beirut neighborhoods where he was playing most nights in residence. (The album was also released internationally as *Rhythms from the Orient* with a different artwork focusing on belly dance). The sound is both bold and accessible, displaying Khorshid's unique guitar sound, accompanied by a small band mixing traditional and modern fuzzed-up arrangements. The mesmerizing opening track, "Rakset El Fadaa", composed by Lebanese musician **Nour Al Mallah**, is a perfect example of Khorshid's artistry. Starting with a long, hypnotic guitar intro, it then speeds up with the backing of a groovy organ, Oriental percussion and the psych sound of an early synthesizer to great effect. The album continues on the same mode blending traditional oriental music with inventive arrangements as showcased by the **Mohamed Abdel Wahab** standard "Leilet Hob" popularized by Oum Kalthoum, which sees Khorshid and his musicians shifting pace several times over eight minutes. One of the peaks of the album in terms of sonic experiments is undoubtedly Khorshid's own composition, "Taqassim Sanat Alfein", with Khorshid's superb guitar in full bloom accompanied by a few touches of synth. Wewantsounds' series of Arabic music reissues are curated by **Mario Choueiry** from Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. Newly remastered; includes original Voice of Lebanon artwork and a two-page insert featuring liner notes by **DJ Ernesto Chahoud**.

TRACKLISTING

- A1. Raqset El Fadaa
- A2. Guitar El Chark
- A3. Takassim Sanat Alfeyn
- B1. Laylet Hob
- B2. Lama Bada Yatasana
- B3. Teletya Mahla Nourha
- B4. Ah Ya Zen

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wewantsounds reissue Omar Khorshid's highly sought-after instrumental album *Giant + Guitar* originally released in 1974 in Lebanon and recorded at Polysound Studio by famed Lebanese engineer **Nabil Moutmaz**.
- The Egyptian musician and actor became one of the best guitarists of the Arab World accompanying the greatest stars of the '60s and '70s, including **Oum Kalthoum, Abdel Halim Hafez** and **Farid El Atrache**.
- The album features Khorshid's unique electric guitar sound mixed with Arabic melodies over superb psych arrangements.
- Newly remastered; includes original Voice of Lebanon artwork and a two-page insert featuring liner notes by **DJ Ernesto Chahoud**.

Also available:

(SF 091LP) KHORSHID AND HIS GROUP, OMAR: *Live in Australia 1981 LP* [613505880543]
(WWSLP 045LP) KHORSHID, OMAR: *WithLove LP* [3700604729839]

Press Contact: publicity@forcedexposure.com