

SCIMITAR RECORDS

PO BOX 148, STN O, TORONTO, ON, CANADA, M4A 2M8

<http://www.scimitarmusic.com>

Al Asha Bi Daha

Traditional Songs from the Eastern Black Sea
Scimitar SRD 0601

MUSIC FROM THE LAND OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE

This is an album of traditional music of the Eastern Black Sea region of present day Turkey bordering Georgia – the area adjacent to ancient Colchis, the land from where Jason and the Argonauts secured the Golden Fleece and returned to Greece with Medea, princess of Colchis.

This archaic music has as its main instrument an upright 3-stringed fiddle called kemenche or lyra. *Al Asha Bi Daha* is a collection of traditional songs and dances, played on this fiddle, guitar and double-headed drum called davul, with vocals in both Pontic Greek (ancient Greeks called the Black Sea Pontos Euxinos) and Black Sea Turkish.

Al Asha Bi Daha is a dance call in Black Sea Turkish Dialect used by dance groups across the region.

For more information and background on this type of music, please visit:
The Pontic Music Home Page <http://www.scimitarmusic.com/pontos>

Al Asha Bi Daha

Leigh Cline - Guitar

Nikolas Michailidis - Pontic lyra, vocals, davul

Produced by Leigh Cline

Recorded at Canterbury Music, Toronto, Canada

David Travers Smith - engineer

Mixed at Canterbury Music, Toronto, Canada

Jeremy Darby - engineer

Mastered at Joao Carvalho Mastering, Toronto, Canada

Brett Zilahi - engineer

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Al Asha Bi Daha

BIOS

Leigh Cline is a Canadian guitarist who has worked in Greece and Turkey with major singers and musicians in many genres. He has played extensively with most of the well known performers of Pontic/Black Sea music, including the legendary masters of kemenche Kostikas Tsakalidis and Gogos Petridis; Chrysanthos, the finest exponent of Pontic singing; as well as with most other major Pontic musicians and singers such as Stathis Nikolaidis, Mihalis Kaliontzidis, Yorgos Amarantidis, Panagiotis Aslanidis and Thanasis Tsoleridis.

Leigh's internationally licensed solo CD, *Orient Express*, has been released in Turkey and the Middle East, India and South Asia, Uzbekistan and Central Asia. Leigh's recently released CD single *Galatia*, that combines Celtic and Pontic music is receiving airplay worldwide and he is researching material for a radio/ television documentary on Celtic/Pontic connections.

Before moving to Europe he was a performer in the North American folk scene throughout Canada and the United States. He has researched World Music for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the World Crafts Council and the Mariposa Folk Festival. He was audio designer for the National Ballet of Canada's ballet *Kraan Erg* by Yannis Xenakis.

Leigh is webmaster of the Pontic Music homepage at <http://www.scimitarmusic.com/pontos>

Nikolas Michailidis, lyra, davul and vocals, was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, of Pontic Greek ancestry. He has been playing the kemenche/lyra since the age of 10. He has performed in many festivals in Europe, the Ukraine and U.S.

Nikolas founded the music group IASON (Jason) in Greece, composed of Black Sea musicians from Greece and Turkey. As well, he produced and played on the CD *Horon ke Tragodia* in Turkey released by Kocer Music.

His research and collection of songs among the Greek-speaking Muslims of Turkey's Black Sea region led to the production of a collective CD titled *IASON, Songs from Black Sea* (Minos EMI, Greece) with Filippos Kesapidis (kemenche) and Alexis Parharidis (vocals). He is currently in the process of founding a Pontic Music Archive for Greece and Turkey. He has also recorded a CD of Pontic songs called *Romaika Tragodis* on the Iris label with Adem Beskoylu and Filippos Kesapidis.

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For Immediate Release:

Scimitar Records announces the availability of

Al Asha Bi Daha - Traditional Songs of the Eastern Black Sea
Leigh Cline & Nikolas Michailidis from CDBABY,
as an Apple iTunes download and as ringtone downloads.
All are available from the CD web page
<http://www.scimitarmusic.com/asha>

The CD is also available on the Iris label in Greece with the title of
Mian Ki Allo
Catalogue # 960-343-04-06-06
Available from Ekdotikos Oikos Adelphon Kyriakidis
Kon Melenidou 5
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