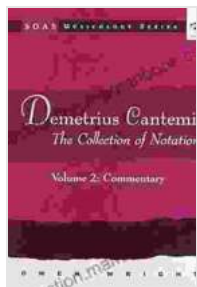


# The Enduring Legacy of "Story of Old Is Gold": A Musical Journey through Soas Musicology Series



In the realm of ethnomusicology, the "Story of Old Is Gold" album and the Soas Musicology Series stand as towering achievements, preserving and

showcasing the rich musical traditions of diverse cultures around the globe. This article delves into the captivating history, cultural significance, and enduring impact of these extraordinary works.



## Taarab Music in Zanzibar in the Twentieth Century: A Story of 'Old is Gold' and Flying Spirits (SOAS Musicology Series) by Agatha Christie

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2608 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 249 pages



### Story of Old Is Gold: A Musical Tapestry

Released in 1964, "Story of Old Is Gold" is a seminal recording that captures the vibrant musical landscape of Central and South Asia. Produced by the International Institute for Comparative Music Studies and Music Research at the School of Oriental and African Studies (Soas), the album features a diverse array of traditional and classical performances from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka.

The album's title, "Story of Old Is Gold," aptly reflects its mission to preserve and share the timeless musical heritage of these regions. Through its evocative melodies, intricate rhythms, and mesmerizing vocals, the album transcends geographical boundaries and showcases the profound beauty and cultural diversity of the region.

## **Soas Musicology Series: A Legacy of Scholarship**

The "Story of Old Is Gold" album is just one of many extraordinary works published under the Soas Musicology Series. Established in 1962, the series is a pioneering initiative that promotes the study and appreciation of non-Western music traditions.

Over the years, the series has published a vast collection of albums, books, and research papers that delve into the musical cultures of Africa, Asia, the Americas, and the Middle East. These publications have played a pivotal role in advancing ethnomusicological scholarship and fostering a deeper understanding of global music.

### **Cultural Significance and Impact**

The "Story of Old Is Gold" album and the Soas Musicology Series have had a profound cultural impact, both within and beyond their respective regions:

- **Cultural Preservation:** By documenting and sharing endangered musical traditions, these works serve as invaluable archives, ensuring that these cultural treasures are preserved for generations to come.
- **Cross-Cultural Exchange:** The series has facilitated cross-cultural dialogue and understanding by introducing audiences to unfamiliar musical styles and perspectives.
- **Educational Resource:** These publications have become essential teaching resources for ethnomusicologists, musicians, and students of cultural studies worldwide.
- **Artistic Inspiration:** The music featured in the series has inspired and influenced contemporary musicians across genres, fostering a vibrant

global soundscape.

## **Flying Spirits: A Soaring Success**

Among the most renowned albums in the Soas Musicology Series is "Flying Spirits," released in 1987. This groundbreaking recording showcases the mesmerizing polyphonic singing of the legendary Chopi people of southern Mozambique.

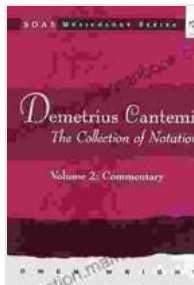
The album's title, "Flying Spirits," captures the soaring, ethereal quality of the Chopi's music, which is deeply imbued with spiritual and ancestral beliefs. Through its haunting vocals, intricate harmonies, and mesmerizing xylophone rhythms, the album transports listeners to the heart of a vibrant musical tradition.

"Flying Spirits" has garnered widespread critical acclaim and has become one of the most iconic ethnomusicological recordings of all time. It has inspired countless musicians and scholars and has played a pivotal role in raising awareness of the Chopi people's rich cultural heritage.

The "Story of Old Is Gold" album and the Soas Musicology Series stand as enduring testaments to the power of music to transcend cultural boundaries and connect humanity. Through their extensive research, meticulous documentation, and unwavering dedication to preserving musical traditions, these works have left an indelible mark on the world of ethnomusicology and continue to inspire and enrich countless lives.

As we navigate an increasingly interconnected and rapidly changing world, the legacy of "Story of Old Is Gold" and the Soas Musicology Series reminds us of the vital importance of safeguarding and celebrating the

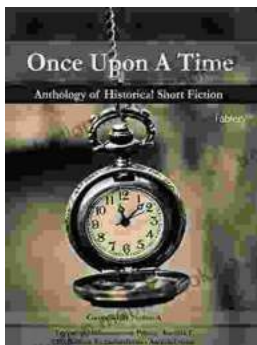
diverse musical expressions that make our planet so vibrant. By promoting cultural diversity and fostering cross-cultural understanding, these works continue to fly the spirits of music lovers around the globe.



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