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## Bedouin musical tradition: al-Bar'ah

*al-Bar'ah* is a Bedouin musical tradition with its origin in the Dhofar Mountains in southern Oman. Here, the National Museum's Director General, Jamal al-Moosawi, and the Head of Curatorial Unit, Moza al-Wardi, tell us more about this unique component of Omani culture. (With photography by Saleh al-Ruzaqi/The National Museum).

## al-Bar'ah

al-Bar'ah is a Bedouin musical tradition from the Dhofar Mountains in southern Oman. It takes the form of a warlike dance performed to drums and the chanting of poetry in a local tribal dialect. al-Bar'ah is performed in a half circle formed by ten to thirty men and women.

As they chant and clap, two male dancers holding daggers (*khanjars*) perform codified dance movements, brandishing their daggers above shoulder level. The musical accompaniment is provided by the *al-Kāsir*, *ar-Rahmāni* and *ad-Duff* drums and *al-Qassabah* flute.

According to UNESCO World Heritage, the *al-Bar'ah* Bedouin musical tradition is proclaimed as one of the "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" (1431–32 AH/2010 CE).



## Oman Heritage

## Dhofari-style dagger (janbīyyah)

Origin: Oman (Dhofar Governorate)

Materials: Silver, rhinoceros horn, steel, leather and wood

Period: 14th century AH/early 20th century CE

The National Museum: Visitor Information

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The National Museum is open daily from 10:00am - 5:00pm (except on Fridays 2:00pm - 6:00pm). The ticket desk closes half an hour before the Museum's closing times.

