

## “Lailat Hob”

**L**ailat Hob” (pronounced “LAY-let hobe”) is a long song that was made famous by Umm Kulthum, Egypt’s premiere singer (1904?-1975). The form is known as *ughmiyya*, literally “song,” and it usually includes a vocal refrain or some other form of internal repetition, and frequently has one or more instrumental sections, quite distinct from one another and from the sung portions, that we refer to here as “overtures” (preceding the song) or “interludes” (between sung portions of the composition).

The music of “Lailat Hob” was written by Muhammad ṢAbd al-Wahhab, one of Egypt’s greatest singer-composers. (1910?-1991) The portion of music presented here is just the overture to the song, which has many other beautiful instrumental sections as well as vocal melodies.

Maqam-s: *Nahawand nawa* and *Bayyati*.

Iqa’at: Like most other large, complex Arabic pieces, “Lailat Hob” contains several rhythm changes. The *iqā’at* or rhythm patterns used include *baladi*, *malfuf*, six-eight, and *maqsūm*.

Source: One of Umm Kulthum’s versions is available on the compact disc *Om Kolthom: Lylat Hob* on the Sono Cairo label (see discography).

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# Lailat Hob

by Muhammad `Abd al-Wahhab

Introduction: no time signature, but relative note values are exact.  
Tempo approximately ♩ = 130

Transcribed by Mimi Spencer for  
*Gems Instrumental Pieces*

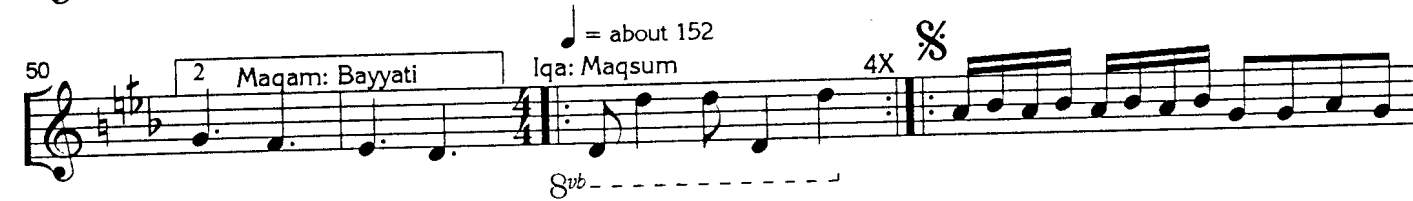

The musical score consists of ten staves of music in G minor. The first two staves are in a common time signature. The third staff begins with a *rit.* marking and a fermata, followed by a change to 4/4 time and the tempo marking ♩ = 120. The fourth staff has a measure marked with a '3' and a '7' above it. The fifth staff has a measure marked with a '3' above it. The sixth staff has a measure marked with a '3' above it. The seventh staff has a measure marked with a '3' above it. The eighth staff has a measure marked with a '4X' above it and the tempo marking *Iqa': Malfuf*. The ninth staff has a measure marked with a '4' above it. The tenth staff has a measure marked with a '4' above it.

31 

34  Tempo about ♩ = 180  
(slide)

38 

44 

50  = about 152  
2 Maqam: Bayyati Iqa: Maqsum 4X   
Sub-----

54 

58  tr 

62  3X

67 

72 

76 

Lailat Hob, continued

80

84

(Backup instruments continue bars 85-6 throughout taqsim.)

Violin taqsim (solo)

89

94

98

102

106

D.S. al Coda

110

114 VERY SLIGHT tempo increase (to about  $\text{♩} = 156$ )

Maqam: Nahawand nawa

118

3 rit. - - - - -