

# **and this is my beloved sheet music from the broadway musical kismet based on themes of a borodin**

And this is my beloved sheet music from the Broadway musical Kismet is a phrase that resonates deeply with fans of musical theater and classical music alike. Kismet, which premiered on Broadway in 1953, is a musical that beautifully intertwines the melodies of the Russian composer Alexander Borodin with a captivating story set in ancient Baghdad. This article delves into the thematic elements of Kismet, the influences of Borodin's compositions, and the significance of the beloved sheet music that continues to enchant audiences today.

## **Overview of Kismet**

Kismet is a musical that was adapted from Edward Knoblock's 1911 play of the same name. The musical features music by Borodin, who is known for his lush orchestral works and operas, notably Prince Igor. The lyrics and book for Kismet were created by Robert Wright and George Forrest, who ingeniously repurposed Borodin's compositions, transforming them into a spectacular Broadway experience.

## **Plot Synopsis**

Set in the exotic backdrop of Baghdad, Kismet tells the story of a poor poet named Hajj and his daughter, Marsinah. Hajj is a dreamer and a romantic, often finding himself embroiled in the intrigues of the Sultan's court. The plot thickens as Hajj encounters a powerful Wazir and a beautiful princess, leading to a series of whimsical and dramatic events. The story is rich with themes of fate, love, and the pursuit of happiness, all underscored by Borodin's evocative music.

## **Musical Structure and Themes**

Kismet is notable for its seamless integration of music and narrative. The musical employs a variety of musical forms, drawing heavily from Borodin's works while presenting them in a Broadway context. The show features several memorable songs, including:

- "And This Is My Beloved"

- "Baubles, Bangles, and Beads"
- "Stranger in Paradise"

Each of these songs encapsulates the essence of the characters' journeys and the overarching themes of the musical.

## **The Influence of Alexander Borodin**

### **Background on Borodin**

Alexander Borodin (1833-1887) was a Russian composer, chemist, and physician, known for his romantic compositions that often drew inspiration from Russian folklore and history. He was a member of the group known as "The Mighty Handful," which sought to create a distinctly Russian style of classical music. Borodin's works include symphonies, string quartets, and operas, but it is his melodic and harmonic richness that has made his music timeless.

### **Musical Contributions to Kismet**

The music used in Kismet is primarily derived from Borodin's compositions, with the most notable being selections from his opera Prince Igor. The musical captures the essence of Borodin's romanticism and intricate melodies, transforming them into a theatrical experience that resonates with contemporary audiences. The composers Wright and Forrest took great care to preserve the lyrical beauty of Borodin's music, adapting it to serve the narrative and emotional arcs of the characters.

## **"And This Is My Beloved" – A Closer Look**

One of the most iconic songs from Kismet is "And This Is My Beloved." This song serves as an emotional centerpiece of the musical, expressing the longing and hope of love.

### **Lyrics and Themes**

The lyrics of "And This Is My Beloved" paint a vivid picture of the beauty and transcendence of love. The song's melodic line is hauntingly beautiful, allowing the singer to convey a deep sense of yearning. The themes explored

in this piece include:

1. **Romantic Idealism:** The song captures the idealized vision of love, a recurring theme in many romantic works.
2. **Longing and Desire:** The emotional weight of the song resonates with anyone who has experienced love's complexities.
3. **Fate and Destiny:** As the characters navigate their destinies, the song underscores the belief that love is a guiding force.

## Musical Analysis

Musically, "And This Is My Beloved" is characterized by its lush harmonies and sweeping melodies. The orchestration enhances the emotional impact, with strings and woodwinds creating a rich tapestry of sound that envelops the listener. The song's structure allows for a build-up of intensity, culminating in a powerful climax that reflects the intensity of the lyrics.

## The Legacy of Kismet and Its Music

Kismet has left an indelible mark on the landscape of American musical theater. Its successful blend of classical music and Broadway storytelling has inspired countless productions and adaptations.

## Impact on Future Musicals

The innovative use of classical music in Kismet paved the way for other musicals that sought to integrate classical elements. Some notable examples include:

- *Les Misérables* – Incorporating classical themes and operatic elements.
- *West Side Story* – Melding classical influences with contemporary styles.
- *Hamilton* – Blending hip-hop with historical narrative and musical tradition.

Kismet's influence can be seen in the way modern musicals continue to explore the intersection of various musical genres and styles, enriching the

theatrical experience.

## Sheet Music and Its Importance

The sheet music for *Kismet*, particularly for songs like “And This Is My Beloved,” is sought after by musicians and vocalists. It serves not only as a means of performance but also as a way to connect with the rich emotional landscape of the musical.

The enduring popularity of *Kismet*’s sheet music can be attributed to:

1. **Accessibility:** The music is approachable for both amateur and professional musicians.
2. **Emotional Resonance:** The melodies evoke deep feelings, making them a favorite among performers.
3. **Educational Value:** The music provides insights into musical structure, harmony, and lyrical storytelling.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, “And this is my beloved sheet music from the Broadway musical *Kismet*” serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring power of music and storytelling. The melding of Borodin’s classical compositions with the engaging narrative of *Kismet* has created a musical that appeals to a wide range of audiences. The themes of love, fate, and desire resonate through the ages, ensuring that the legacy of *Kismet* and its music will continue to inspire and enchant future generations. Whether performed on stage or enjoyed in the intimacy of a home, the beloved sheet music of *Kismet* remains a cherished treasure in the world of musical theater.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the significance of the sheet music from 'Kismet' in relation to Borodin's themes?

The sheet music from 'Kismet' incorporates themes from Borodin's compositions, particularly his use of lush melodies and rich harmonies, which enhance the storytelling and emotional depth of the musical.

## **How does 'Kismet' adapt Borodin's music for a Broadway audience?**

The musical adapts Borodin's music by blending traditional operatic elements with Broadway-style arrangements, making the compositions accessible and appealing to a wider audience while retaining their original beauty.

## **What are some notable songs from 'Kismet' that are based on Borodin's work?**

Notable songs from 'Kismet' that are based on Borodin's work include 'Stranger in Paradise,' which is adapted from the 'Polovtsian Dances,' and 'Baubles, Bangles, and Beads,' which showcases Borodin's melodic style.

## **In what ways does 'Kismet' reflect the cultural influences of Borodin's time?**

'Kismet' reflects the cultural influences of Borodin's time by incorporating themes of romance, destiny, and exoticism, which were prominent in Russian music and literature during the late 19th century.

## **What role does the setting play in the musical 'Kismet' and its connection to Borodin's themes?**

The setting of 'Kismet' in ancient Baghdad enhances the exotic and romantic themes found in Borodin's music, allowing for a rich backdrop that complements the emotional and dramatic elements of the story.

## **How did the original production of 'Kismet' utilize Borodin's music in its staging?**

The original production of 'Kismet' utilized Borodin's music by creatively integrating it into the choreography and staging, using the lush orchestrations to elevate the visual storytelling and engage the audience.

## **What is the legacy of 'Kismet' in relation to Borodin's compositions?**

'Kismet' has helped to popularize Borodin's compositions, introducing his music to new generations and demonstrating the timeless appeal of his melodies within a contemporary musical framework.

## **How do the themes of love and fate in 'Kismet' connect to Borodin's original works?**

The themes of love and fate in 'Kismet' resonate with Borodin's original

works, which often explore the complexities of relationships and the inevitability of destiny, reflecting the emotional depth found in his operatic compositions.

## **What impact did 'Kismet' have on the perception of classical composers like Borodin in musical theater?**

'Kismet' had a significant impact on the perception of classical composers like Borodin in musical theater by demonstrating that their music could be transformed into popular, engaging narratives that resonate with modern audiences.

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