

# Music of the Mevlevi Sufi Order

Sub-order of Sufi branch of Islam, today centered in Turkey

“Whirling Dervishes” | “a slow dance of graceful and ecstatic turning”

Music and dance → experience direct spiritual union with God

Sema (worship ceremony)

- many formal sections
- symbolizes soul's journey to God



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“The samazan enters the performance space slowly, with arms crossed and hands on shoulders, a posture meant to **represent the oneness of God**. As the counter-clockwise ayin-i şerif or mukabele (spinning dance) begins, the samazan’s arms are opened outward. The right palm is **turned heavenward to receive God’s blessings**; the left palm is turned downward to transmit that power into the earth. Thus, the **spinning dervish becomes a conduit** through which the divine is made manifest in the world.”



Spiritual music that excites the listener

# Naat-i-Sherif: Taksim and Peşrev

Two parts of the Sema ceremony

Taksim

- improvisation on ney (flute)
- outlining the maqam (scale) used in the rest of the ceremony
- free meter

Peşrev (begins at 3:08)

- composition, not improvised
- strict form and meter (28 beats in a unit!)
- ney, plucked and bowed string instruments, drum, cymbal

