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MUSIC FROM ALEPPO DURING THE SYRIAN WAR

*Displacement and Memory in Hello
Psychaleppo's Electro-Tarab*

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Music from Aleppo during the Syrian War

Displacement and Memory in Hello Psychaleppo's Electro-Tarab

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Abstract: Aleppo is regarded as one of the historical centres of an urban Arab art music tradition known as '*tarab*'. During the war that followed Syria's 2011 political uprisings, vast parts of the city were destroyed. This Element explores how tarab lives on in new contexts. It does so through a focus on the work of Hello Psychaleppo, one of Aleppo's displaced musicians and the pioneer of 'electro-tarab', an eclectic style of urban electronic dance music that is conceived as a homage to Aleppo's musical legacy. Whether using local religious chants, Palestinian poetry or the image of a yellow man, electro-tarab includes an inventory of audio, visual and literary samples. These samples help conceptualise the role music has played during the Syrian war; they offer insights into Aleppo's musical and diasporic afterlife; and they illuminate some of the socio-aesthetic parameters that characterise contemporary Arab electronic music.

Keywords: Aleppo, music during the Syrian War, music and displacement, electro-tarab, Arab electronic music scenes

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