

**RAKSHANI LOVE SONGS AND  
TRANCE MUSIC FROM BALOCHISTAN -  
ABDURAHMAN SURIZEHI**

The music on this album is from both sides of the border separating Pakistan (East-Balochistan) and Iran (West-Balochistan), just south of the Afghani (North-Balochistan) border. Featuring Abdul Rahman Surizehi, the album focuses on the Rakhshani music of northern Balochistan in the Rakhshani area – a border region including parts of Iran and Pakistan and southern Afghanistan. The album is presented as 2 CD Long books with plenty of room to present the traditions of a region that is split into three countries. We will attempt here to answer the common question: What

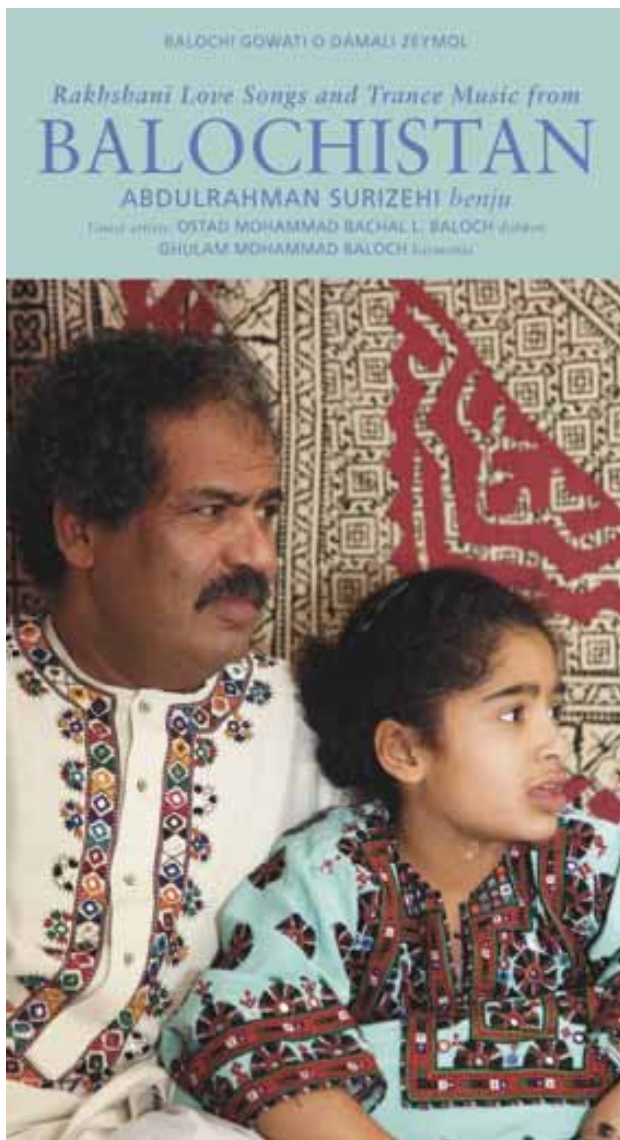
**Etnisk Musikkklubb**  
**NEW RELEASE**  
**The EM Label**

**Release:** February 2011  
**Catalogue reference:** EM58  
**Presentation:** 2CD Long Box Digipack  
**File under:** World Music  
**Text/Booklet:** English, French  
**Total time:** CD1 40:51, CD2 51:34  
**Bar Code:** 7041885305821

is Balochistan and where is it?

With his great knowledge of the traditional music of Balochistan, we are presented here with a world premiere of two categories of Rakhshani music from northern Balochistan: Love songs and trance music. One CD contains love songs and the other contains trance music. Rakhshani is a large region in Balochistan, and Rakhshani is the name for one of the two main languages spoken here. The music often has an old-fashioned quality, improvised elements are minimalistic and the music is characterized by repetitive patterns. There are no exact borders, however Rakhshani is spoken in mid and Eastern Balochistan, while the other main dialect, Makorani, is more prevalent in the southern part of the region. Also typical for Rakhshani music is the string instrument called Tamburag. In the south this instrument is primarily used for accompaniment, while in the north it carries the melody. It should be mentioned that Rakhshani music of Balochistan has never previously been released. Since the area is divided among three nation-states, no one has taken responsibility for preserving the intangible cultural heritage of Balochistan. One of the world's best performers of Balochistan's music and tradition is a Norwegian citizen.

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**ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Abdulrahman Surizehi comes from Iranian Balochistan, but he lives in Norway and is a Norwegian citizen. He plays a traditional instrument called Benju, and, according to those who know the tradition, he is considered the world's best and most virtuoso performer on this instrument. He has participated previously on several other albums on the Scandinavia EMLabel, as well as the prestigious French label, Ocora. He

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tours currently in Scandinavia and increasingly in other countries as well. He won the Norwegian Folk Music Award [Folkelarmpris] in 2006, in Open Class for the double album «Love Songs and Trance Music from Balochistan». For the same album he also was awarded the prestigious German record award «Preis der Deutschen Schallplatten Kritik».

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