



QĀNUNI, JALĀL

QĀNUNI, Jalāl (b. Shiraz, 1900; d. Shiraz, 22 Mehr 1366/14 October 1987), master of Persian classical music, and expert in *Dašttestāni* music (folk music from the Fārs province). His father, Raḥim Qānuni, was a master *qānun* (trapezoidal zither) player who re-introduced this instrument into Persia. After his death Jalāl replaced him as the most renowned *qānun* player in the country (Kāleqi, I, pp. 191-93). Jalāl was a master performer of the Persian modal system *dastgāh* and, as an acclaimed professional musician, led an ensemble with three other musicians, namely Jalāl Āqābālā (Bālāzāda, *tār*), Laṭif Pejman (violin), and Manučehr Širāzi (vocalist; *tombak/žarb*). Qānuni's group was particularly acclaimed for its broad knowledge and exceptional performance of *Dašttestāni* melodies. Their work was much appreciated by Moḥammad-Rezā Shah Pahlavi (r. 1941-79), for whom they routinely performed during his visits to Shiraz (Chaouli, 2002, pp. 179-80; Javanizadeh). A number of Jalāl's solo and group performances were broadcast live on Radio Shiraz, Radio Iran, and National Iranian Television, though none are known to have been recorded. Jalāl Qānuni died in Shiraz on 14 October 1987 (22 Mehr 1366). Though never a professional musician, Jalāl's younger brother 'Aziz was a skilled *tār* player who learned the *radif* from Morteżā Neydāwud. 'Aziz was born in Shiraz on 16 September 1918 and died in Phoenix, Arizona, on 2 May 2005 (Ghanuni Behbudi).



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(Houman Sarshar)

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