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The five ballads are selected from Persian folk music. They are arranged here in their purest and most direct form. They speak directly to people and although old, they remain popular with Persians to this day. The ballads originate from various parts of Persia where different dialects are used. In these arrangements I have tried to give the melodies the same nuance and embellishments that a singer would. All the ballads except *Dareneh-Jaan/Aziz Joon* begin with a short introduction establishing the tempo and mood. In *Jaan-e-Maryam*, the muted strumming of the melody is an imitation of string tremolo. The arrangement of the *Lala-ee* is inspired by a version for choir by the late Iranian composer, violinist, and conductor, Rouben Gregorian.

The *Five Popular Persian Ballads* have been recorded by Lily Afshar on *A Jug of Wine and Thou*, Summit Records, DCD 236.