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ANT 252, Ethnomusicological Content Analysis

Song name: (2003–2004) – “Al-Mu'allim” Sami Yusuf

Music is inconceivable in its ability to be able to have so many sounds, emotions, instruments, beats, genres, and people who listen to the millions of different types every day. Music is global for a reason. It reaches every part of us, because music is a form of expression. Music is one of the numerous things that makes us human. Music is worldwide on purpose. It achieves all aspects of us, on the grounds that music is a manifestation of interpretation. Music can be a "powerful medium to promote ideas and establish dialogue within society.

**The song's content for style:** The main idea of this song is explicitly religious themes praising the Prophet Mohammad saying:

" We once had a Teacher  
The Teacher of teachers,  
He changed the world for the better  
And made us better creatures,  
Oh Allah we've shamed ourselves  
We've strayed from Al-Mu'allim,  
Surely we've wronged ourselves  
What will we say in front him?  
Oh Mu'allim..."

Also the album cover symbolized "the light of the Prophetic message illuminating the darkness of the night".

**Genre:** Religion Islamic Song.

**What the purpose of the song is (message):** This song "Al-Mu'allim" which can be translate to English as "Teacher". From its title in Arabic we can say this song is about the personality of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and how he changed the people's beliefs, their behavior, their customs, and their social norms, and he did so by convincing them with kindness and gentle persuasion.

Song, "Al-Mu'allim", became an instant hit in the Middle East, North Africa, and South-East Asia topping the charts in Egypt and Turkey for twelve consecutive weeks, selling over seven million copies worldwide. Believing that music can be a "powerful medium to promote ideas and establish dialogue within society

**Social context:** it reached the ears of unexpectedly diverse range of listeners, constituting of various nationalities, ages, and races.

**The song's melody:** slow, soft and spirituality song

**Song's harmony:** catchy and deeply moving and all captivate with the inherent power of spirituality.

**Rhythm** (do they help or hinder in the delivery of the song's message): The song is so soft to the ears and most of the people like it when they heard it in the first time. The words are understandable.

**What material culture was involved in the production of the music you analyzed? :**

Islam culture and he coalesced Eastern percussive instrumentation and Western melodies in "Al-Mu'allim" with a focus on the English and Arabic languages.