

## ‘Amalajāt-i ʿTarab-i Kāša

Kāneši az do naqāši-i ‘asr-i Nāseri bā moẓū‘-i mūsīqi aṭar-i Šani‘-al-Molk va Kamāl-al-Molk

### Exclusive Royal Musicians

A Reading of Two Music-Related Paintings of Nāseri Period by Šani‘-al-Molk and Kamāl-al-Molk

#### English Abstract

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The book *‘Amalajāt-i ʿTarab-i Kāša* (Exclusive Royal Musicians) examines two paintings related to music from the Qājār period (1794–1925), during the reign of Nāser-al-Din Šāh (r. 1848–1896). The first painting, *‘Alī-Akbar Farāhānī va Šāgerdānaš* (‘Alī-Akbar Farāhānī and His Apprentices) by Abu’l-Ḥasan Ġaffārī, also known as Šani‘-al-Molk (c. 1813–1866), is currently located at an unknown site. The second painting, *‘Amala-i ʿTarab* (Royal Musicians), by Moḥammad Ġaffārī, also known as Kamāl-al-Molk (c. 1848–1941), is housed in the Golestān Palace in Tehrān.

Šani‘-al-Molk’s painting portrays the court musician ‘Alī-Akbar Farāhānī with his renowned tār, named Qalandar, surrounded by seven of his apprentices. Due to the absence of the original painting, the analysis relies on photographs taken by Bahman Boustān, images available in various historical sources, and a postcard. In the image, some apprentices are identified through historical sources, while others remain anonymous.

Kamāl-al-Molk’s painting depicts fifteen individuals, five of them are playing musical instruments (santur, kamānča, tār, tombak, daf). A dancer lying on the ground holds a pair of small cymbals, which are barely discernible. The painting also features three young male dancers. The names of three musicians are mentioned in historical records, but the names of the tombak and daf players are not specified.

The book analyzes the context and dating of the paintings, the depicted musical instruments, the identification of the musicians, and the sociocultural factors significant to music-making during the Qājār period, as well as the implicit meanings of the paintings. Given its multidisciplinary approach, this book will interest both scholars of Qājār music and art historians specializing in painting and photography.