

Azadoota's founder Robin Zirwanda comes from Iraq, where the Assyrians trace their ancestors back 7000 years. Recognised throughout the diaspora as a goodwill ambassador for his little-known nation, Robin sings catchy originals in his native Assyrian Aramaic.

Known for their bright contemporary style and accessible groove-based worldbeat, Azadoota have proved to be a favourite on the festival scene for almost three decades. Spicy ethnic rhythms and traditional dance beats find new

life on today's dance floor, and the mysterious sound of an ancient language communicates themes of heritage, displacement, love, and cultural continuity.

Featuring Assyrian musicians from across the globe, including 14-year-old Josh on piano, the band performs in costumes inspired by their ancient royal ancestors.

Azadoota is unique as the only band worldwide who perform for mainstream audiences in the

Assyrian language, the native tongue of Iraq's indigenous people, classified by UNESCO as "Definitely Endangered".

In 2018, Azadoota were granted visas to perform in the USA as a Culturally Unique act, in recognition of their work representing the Assyrian people in the global arena.

Rousing unsuspecting listeners to their feet in every arena, Azadoota delivers an extravaganza of Assyrian dance-rock worldbeat.

Azadoota's logo is derived from an 8th Century BC depiction of the Assyrian god Ashur. Originally shown shooting his bow from a winged sun-disc among rain clouds, we're rocking him up with a guitar.

Azadoota performs in costumes inspired by our ancient royal ancestors, Ashurbanipal, AshurNasirpal, Nebuchadnezzar – which presents a colourful spectacle and inspires discussion in the audience about Assyrian heritage, musical history and cultural continuity.



Azadoota is formed
They launch the band with the first of many tours up the East Coast.

Album release: Planetarian
"A tight, tasty smorgasbord of locally produced worldbeat."
- Limelight

Album release: Beyond Bridges
"Infectious, foot-tapping, hand-clapping, body-whirling slice of exotic rhythms" - The Australian

Performance highlight: WOMAdelaide
"If one were to pick a single act that sums up the Womad spirit, it would probably be the Australian Iraqi party band Azadoota." - The Guardian

Music video & single release: "Lishana (Jesus Spoke My Language)"
Lishana is an upbeat rallying cry for young Assyrians to preserve their ancient language.

Performance Highlight: Woodford Folk Festival
"Dance rock outfit Azadoota performed a fast-paced set of songs from the Middle East that danced the night away with a wonderful set of sounds from a mystic era."
- AU Review

Music video & single release: "Mazreta" (Spinning Top)
In this song Robin uses the childhood toy as a metaphor for heritage, and its spinning with the turning of the Earth and the passage of time.

Music video & single release: "Unity"
A party anthem with a serious message, Unity was a top-25 semi-finalist for World Music in the International Songwriting Competition 2018.

Featured Tour: USA and Canada
Azadoota are recognised for their work representing the Assyrian people in the global arena, performing in USA as a Culturally Unique act.

Music video & single release: "Shinneh" (Years)
This poignant closure ballad was the last song Robin worked on together with his late father, Iraqi pop idol Awimalk Haider.

Music video release: "Bruni" (Son)
Filmed at the lavish Morgan Estate in California, Bruni is a comedic representation of an Assyrian mother doting on her precious son. The video is a viral hit among Assyrians worldwide.

Featured Tour: Return to Arnhem Land
After 43 years, Robin returns with Azadoota to the town that launched his musical career. A bittersweet trip for Robin, but Azadoota sets the whole town abuzz.

1996

2006

2011

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2018

2018

2019

2019



Sept 2018
The Assyrian Journal
Feature article on
Azadoota

Refreshing the
standard definition
of native Assyrian
music via a medium of
unorthodox creativity
which, in combination
with a simple taste for
something different,
gave way to the new-
world band Azadoota.

[Read more](#)



Jan 2019
The Assyrian Journal
Feature article on Bruni
video release

"It's so catchy! My
wife and I watched
it five times in a row
and then we caught
ourselves humming
the melody or singing
it and laughing about it
for the next two days."
Anthony Narsi
Turlock, California

[Read more](#)



April 2018
Fairfield Advance
Front Cover

"Council and I are
proud to provide
exciting community
events that bring
people together in
celebration of our
City's cultural diversity,"

[Read more](#)



Apr 2016
SBS National News
Feature bulletin on
Assyrian New Year

"Celebrations as
thousands mark the
beginning of the
Assyrian New Year."

[Watch now](#)



Sept 2018
ANB Assyrian National
Broadcasting
40-minute TV special

"This band has
brought a new style to
Assyrian music. It's so
contemporary, so nice,
it makes you happy,
and it has a strong
message for us."

[Watch now](#)



Jan 2018
Bellbottom
Feature article on
Azadoota

"We are the only
band in the world
performing Assyrian
music on the
mainstream stage,
so we carry a great
responsibility to spread
awareness..."

[Read more](#)



Aug 2012
The Good Weekend
Feature article on
Robin and his father

"Dad and I are both
perfectionists, but we
have totally different
ideas of what perfect
is. We didn't connect
that well before, but
now we do, thanks to
the music."

[Read more](#)