

With the spicy heat of ethnic rhythms and the mysterious sounds of an ancient language, Azadoota rouse unsuspecting listeners to their feet and onto dance-floors across the globe.

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.

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".

Wearing the costumes of their royal ancestors, Azadoota's powerful horn section heralds a renaissance of their ancient culture, while a driving rhythm section gives new life to traditional dance beats.

Over their 20-year history, Azadoota has performed at venues from the tiniest bush halls to the most well-known festivals. In 2018 Azadoota toured North America for the first time, and recently they toured to Australia's remote top end, forging a deep connection with indigenous musicians from another ancient culture.

Azadoota's albums have garnered rave reviews at home and overseas, and their song "Lishana" has become an anthem for Assyrians living in the diaspora.

Hailed as "the act that sums up the WOMAD spirit", Azadoota delivers an extravaganza of contemporary Assyrian dance-rock Worldbeat.

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

1996

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

2006

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

2011

**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

2014

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

2015

**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

2016

**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.

2017

**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.

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.

2018

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

2018

**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.

2019

**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.

2019

# IN THE MEDIA



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](#)



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](#)



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,"

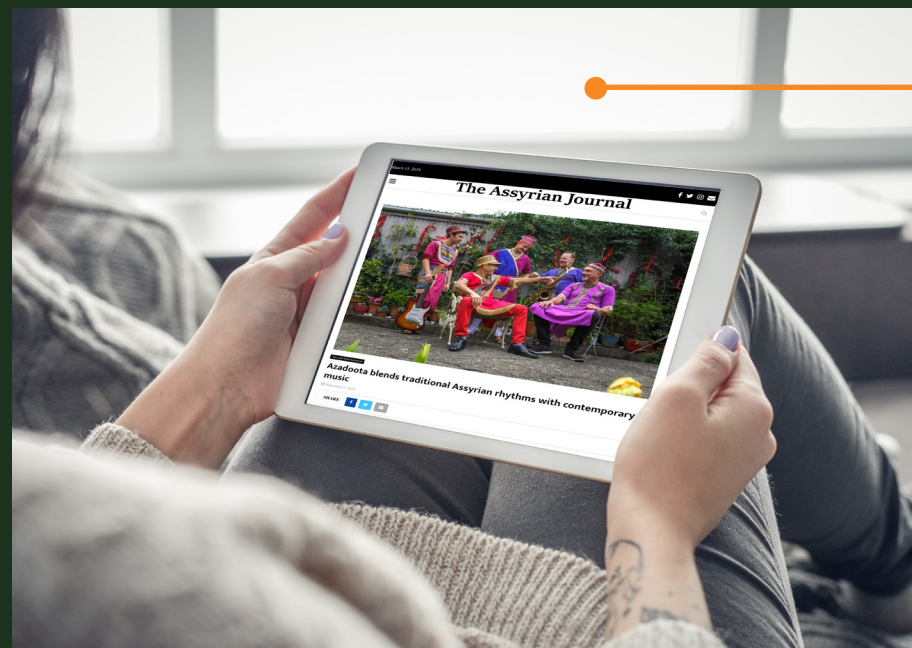
[Read more](#)



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](#)



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](#)



Apr 2016  
SBS National News  
Feature bulletin on  
Assyrian New Year

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

[Watch now](#)



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](#)