

Delbar records

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“**Delber**” is a Persian private label of 78 rpms, recorded and manufactured by “the National Gramophone mfg co. L.T.D.” of Bombay in 1946 and second Seri of Persian recordings after the Second World War. Michael Kinnear in his book, “The 78 rpm record labels of India” does not point to these records and this paper is going to introduce “**Delbar**” records with a complete discography.

“**Delbar**” is just written in Persian "دلبر" on labels and sleeves. Hossein Ostowar, one of the Iranian important pianists who had recorded many songs at Tehran on Columbia label in late 1928, was the main sponsor of Delbar records. Parviz Khatibi in his book “Memories of artists” says that he, Ostowar and Parviz Mahmood were planning to make records out of Iran, in absence of recording companies in Tehran but after a delay in finalizing their discussions, they find releasing new records, recorded and made in India by assistance of Ostowar (Khatibi: pp 120-122)

Tow young artists, Nematollah Minbashian and Fathollah Minbashian, share in this project with Ostowar and after preparing songs and words similar to western pop music; they take a trip to Bombay without orchestra. They believed that orchestra would be finding easily as Badizadeh did in his recordings for Odeon in Berlin 1937 and so they choose Ken Mac and his band to take part in their recording session in Mumbai.

Minbashian is an important family in Persian music. Salar Moazzaz Gholamreza khan (Minbashian), his son Gholamhossein khan and his brother Nasrollah khan were managing important music centers in army and ministry of cultures between 1900 and 1940. Ali Bulookbashi and Yahya Shahidi have gathered useful data of them in their book “Military Music and Musical Instruments” pp 118-140. Mehrdad Pahlbod, minister of culture and art of Iran up to 1978, was a Minbashian too but had changed his last name.



There is no information of the agreement between partners or their contract with the National Gramophone mfg co. L.T.D and Ken. Mac and his band, that played all the songs.

“Delbar” label contains just five records or ten sides and ten songs with a beautiful white – navy label and a dancing girl with the name of factory in red.

All the songs are composed and lyrics are written by Nematollah Minbashian and Fathollah Minbashian except record H 505-b (matrix No. 9528) that is composed and written by Fathollah Minbashian , and record H 503-b (matrix No. 9529) which is



composed by Sarshar and the words by Fathollah Minbashian. These last songs have been arranged by Nematollah Minbashian.

The records have a similar sleeve which looks like a complete catalogue and inform all of records, sides and names of the songs and price of the records (125 Rials = 3 to 4 US\$) that seems too expensive in those days that price of such records had been less than 1 US\$.



Delber records complete discography

<i>Matrix number</i>	<i>Record number</i>	<i>title</i>	<i>style</i>	<i>artists</i>	<i>orchestra</i>
9517	H501	Delbar e tannaz	Foxtrot	N&F. Minbashian	ken mac & his band
9518	H504	Kenar e jooybar	Waltz	N&F. Minbashian	ken mac & his band
9519	H501	Kooy e delbar	Tango	N&F. Minbashian	ken mac & his band
9520	H505	Tireh shab	Tango	N&F. Minbashian	ken mac & his band
9521	H503	Az faraghash	rumba	N&F. Minbashian	ken mac & his band
9522	H502	Arezooy e del	Foxtrot	N&F. Minbashian	ken mac & his band
9523	H504	Bar sar e kooyat	Tango	N&F. Minbashian	ken mac & his band
9524	H502	Mehr e to	Foxtrot	N&F. Minbashian	ken mac & his band
9528	H505	Bar hal e zaram	Tango	N&F. Minbashian	ken mac & his band
9529	H503	Dideh e geryan	Tango	N&F. Minbashian	ken mac & his band

