

Acknowledgments

It is fitting to begin a book about a century-long musical memory project by recalling the people who over the past decade have allowed me to write this book and to carry out the research from which it emerged. But as the following pages show, complete recollection is impossible no matter how strong the desire. With this humbling fact in mind, I would like to name some of the people who have helped me along the way, with the hope that those I do not name here will nevertheless recognize themselves in the broad spirit of these thanks.

As the coming pages show, Andalusi music enthusiasts are frequently described by others, and sometimes even by themselves, as a closed community that is protective of its secrets. My own lived experience, however, has suggested much the opposite. This book would not have been possible without the openness and generosity of countless musicians and enthusiasts, initially in Morocco and subsequently in Algeria, France, and North America.

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