

Fairuz

“I feel art is like prayer.”

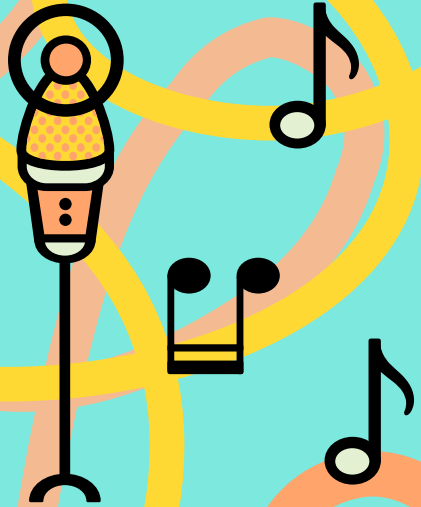
Nouhad Haddad, famously known as Fairuz, is a Lebanese singer born in 1935 in Beirut. As a little girl, Fairuz was known in her community for her undeniable singing talent and performances for friends and neighbours.

At age 14, Fairuz was discovered at a school recital by musician and talent scout Mohammed Fleifel; who became her first agent and encouraged her to enrol at the National Conservatory of Music in Beirut where she studied for five years.

Fleifel urged Fairuz to learn *tajweed*; the art of reciting the Holy Qur'an, which strengthens intonation and command of the classical Arabic language. Fairuz incorporated these new skills in her singing of *muwashahat* and in perfecting the various melodic styles of traditional Arabic music.

Fairuz's music career started at the Lebanese Radio Station, when composer Halim El Roumi, appointed her as lead soloist. Around this time, Fairuz met musicians Assi and Mansour Rahbani. The trio went on to writing and producing music together. Their song *lthab*, was their first hit success. Fairuz and Assi married in 1954.

Her performance at the Baalbak International Festival in 1957 marked the beginning of a globally celebrated artist who would go on to become “The Jewel of Lebanon”. Fairuz has performed worldwide and worked with countless composers, poets and writers. Her songs explore subject matters that include patriotism and romance as well as traditional folk chants and shepherd songs.



DID YOU KNOW?

Fairuz has sold over 150 million records worldwide making her one of the highest selling Arab artists of all time.

FUN FACT

‘Fairuz’ in Arabic means turquoise. This stage name was given to her by Halim El Roumi because her voice reminded him of the rare gemstone.

MUSICAL TERM

Muwashahat: A genre of music originating from Al-Andalus (southern Spain) that is characterised by the singing of classical Arabic poems.

