

Abdel Halim Hafez

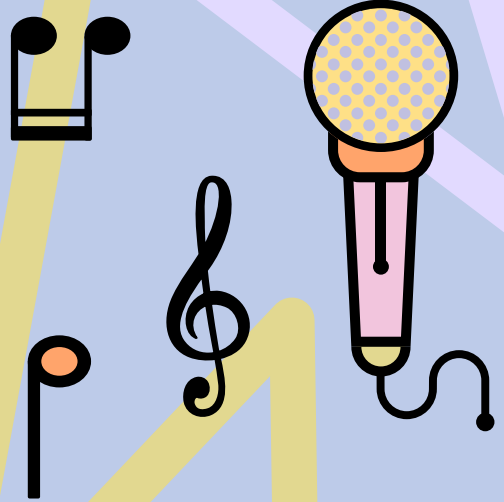
“Success is not made by enemies, nor by friends. Success depends on talent and determination.”

Abdel Halim Hafez was an Egyptian singer and actor born in 1929 in Cairo. Hafez's musical ability was evident at an early age. His elder brother Ismail, who became a public-school music teacher, encouraged Hafez and nurtured his talent. In 1948 Hafez graduated from the Academy of Arabic Music.

After years of singing at various music venues, Hafez's big break finally came when he was asked to step in for singer Karem Mahmoud, a popular Egyptian singer at the time, who was unable to sing in a scheduled live radio performance. This impromptu performance in 1953 kick-started his career. Hafez Abdel Wahab, supervisor of musical programming at Egypt's national radio, took him under his wing to mentor.

Abdel Halim Hafez's unique sound was originally challenging for listeners. After much persistence, determination, and public concerts, the crooner's signature singing style gained appreciation and admiration, leading him to worldwide popularity.

Abdel Halim Hafez was one of the most famous performing artists of his era, singing at sold out arenas and starring in numerous films. He was known as 'the Son of the Nile' and 'the King of Emotions and Feelings'.



DID YOU KNOW?

Abdel Halim Hafez is a stage name, his birth name was Abdel Halim Ali Shabana. 'Hafez' was adopted in recognition of his mentor.

FUN FACT

Riffs from Hafez's song *Khosara* were sampled in American rap singer Jay-Z's hit song *Big Pimpin'*.

MUSICAL TERM

Sampling: is when a portion of an audio recording is used in the production of another composition.

