

Baligh Hamdi

“An artist is like a fingerprint, never repeated.”

Baligh Abdel Hamid Hamdi Morsi was an Egyptian composer born in 1931 in Egypt. He wrote many hit songs during the golden era of Arabic music.

As a child, Baligh was influenced by his father, who played the oud, and by his mother, a poet. At university he initially entered law school but later changed paths to pursue a career in music and went on to graduate from the Higher Institute of Arabic Music in Egypt.

Baligh started his career singing on the radio but soon turned to writing music and proved to be a highly talented composer. He drew much of his inspiration from **Egyptian folk** melodies and rhythms. His first success was in 1957 when he composed a song for Abdul Halim Hafez titled *Tkhonoh* (You Betray Him). From this point on Baligh began composing many more hits for Abdul Halim including *Jana Al Hawa* (Love Came to Us) and *Sawwah* (Wanderer).

In 1960, Baligh was introduced to Umm Kulthum at a social gathering where she immediately asked him to compose the music for her upcoming song *Hob Eih* (What Love). In addition to this, Baligh composed the music for many of her other hit records such as *Alf Leila w Leila* (One Thousand and One Nights) and *Ansak* (I Forget You) which was dedicated to Baligh's ex-wife, the famous singer, Warda Al Jazairia.

Baligh composed hit songs for many artists including Warda Al Jazairia, Sabah, Samira Saeed, Hani Shaker, Talal Madah, Mohammed Abdo, Latifa, and many more. His reputation as a composer earned him the title 'King of the Music'.



DID YOU KNOW?

A lawsuit was filed against American rapper Jay-Z for sampling melodies from Baligh Hamdi's composition for Abdul Halim Hafez's song titled *Khosara Khosara*.

FUN FACT

Baligh Hamdi composed songs written by Emirati poet Mana Saeed Al Otaiba.

MUSICAL TERM

Egyptian folk music: A type of traditional and generally rural music from Egypt.

