



Through her 40 year career, Fairouz's repertoire transcended perceived "Eastern" and "Western" styles of music. Notably, Fairouz's work in the theatre brought new life to traditional Arab folk music, with the Rahbani brothers' modern compositions. The Rahbani family composed a song for each major Arab capitol, not at the behest of any politician seeking glory, but for the people living on the land. These anthems remain a beacon of hope and unity for those living in Lebanon, Palestine, and other Arab countries.

Burling the fifteen year civil war in Lebanon, Fairouz remained in her homeland, refusing to seek shelter. Resisting every attempt made by factional warlords, she remained committed to her conviction of remaining a voice of and for the people.

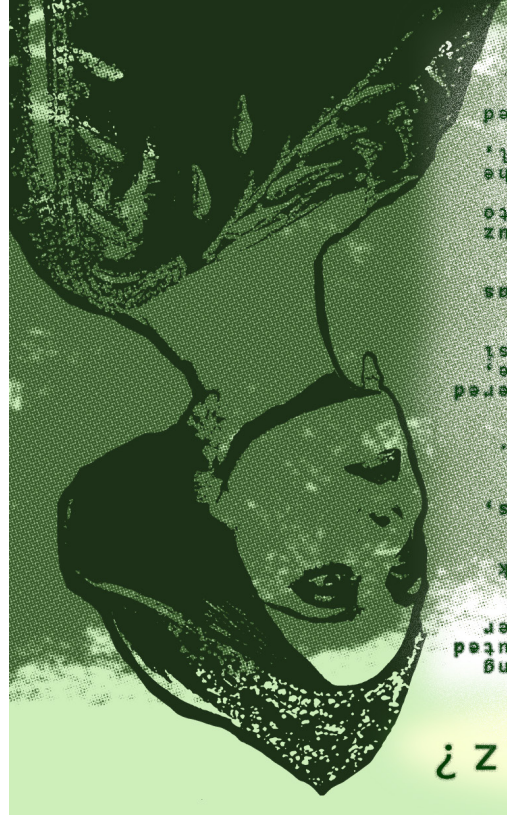
Who is Fairouz?

Born Nihad Haddad to a print shop technician in 1935 Beirut, Fairouz demonstrated an aptitude for singing at an early age. After she was scouted by a musician named Mohammed Fleifer at 14, Fairouz joined the National Conservatory in Beirut where she continued to hone her distinct dark and smooth vocals.

Through practicing "Koranik" chants, Fairouz mastered her style which prioritizes a clear resonance and intentionally emotional intonation.

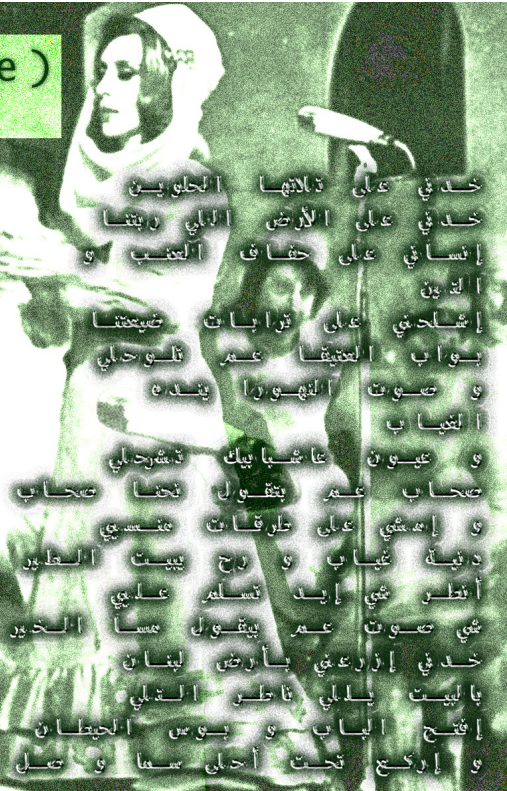
Not long after her discovery, officials at the radio station offered her a job as a chorus singer. There, Fairouz met her future husband, Assi Rahbani, who frequented the radio station with his brother, Mansour, attempting to get their own break as writers and composers.

Through their collaboration, Fairouz and the Rahbani brothers ascended to stardom. They cemented their radio success through a performance at the 1957 Baalbek International Festival, the first year to include Lebanese folkloric acts. The family continued to perform at the Baalbek festival until its suspension following the start of the Lebanese Civil War in 1975.



Khedni (Take Me) by Fairouz

Take me to its lovely hills
 Take me to the land that has reared me
 and forget me there among vineyards and
 fig trees
 and let me lie upon the soil of our
 village.
 Ancient windows are signalling to me, and
 sounds of its
 rivers are calling those who have
 travelled;
 And eyes peeping from windows say to me,
 We are friends.
 And I walk in forgotten alleys, in late
 evenings,
 when lights are about to go off,
 waiting for a hand to shake mine and a
 voice
 to salute me.
 Take me and plant me in the land of
 Lebanon
 take me to the house that is guarding the
 hill,
 where I shall open the door and kiss the
 walls
 and kneel under the loveliest sky, and
 pray, and pray..



خدني على تلالها الحلويين
 خدني على الأرض التي ربنتنا
 إنساني على حفاف العنب في
 الدير
 إشلحي على تراجات ضيعتنا
 بواب العتيقا عم تلوحلي
 و صوت النهورا بيده
 التنياب
 و عيون عاغبايك تشرحلي
 صحاب عم يقول نحنا صحاب
 و إسمعي على طرقات منسي
 دنية غاب و رح بيت الطيور
 أظري شي إيد تسلم علي
 شي صوت عم يقول مسا الخير
 خدني إزرعي بأرض لبنان
 بالبيت يلي ناظر التلي
 إفتح الباب و بوس الحيطان
 و إركع تحت أحلى سما و صل

