



In 1972, 16-year old Zeinab Shaath wrote her song "The Urgent Call of Palestine" based on the poem by Indian poet Lalita Pantabai. Inspired by the records of Joan Baez and Bob Dylan from the U.S., Shaath strove to translate the musical resistance of the Vietnam War into protest songs that shed light on her home, Gaza. Being the first member of her family born outside of Palestine, Shaath felt desperate to help her people suffering under the occupation of Israel and the continuing violence. She stood with her people the only way she knew how: folk music.

From grunge, to garage rock, to the avant garde, these artists show that rebellion has no specific sound or common mold. Their music, no matter the genre or subject matter, works towards a common goal: the collective liberation of the Palestinian people.



Palestinian song has been a constant vehicle in bringing communities together from traditional wedding ceremonies to the nurses healing those wounded in Gaza. Whether in joy or distress, the culture of Palestine finds itself rooted in the shared culture. Merging old and new sounds with the same rally call, Palestinian voices are meant to be heard, felt, and shared.

With this zine, we aim to highlight and celebrate some of our personal favorite Palestinian artists, spotlighting their music for the greater good - whether that means expressing their struggles and speaking truth to power, or shining as a beacon of light for Palestinians.

RASHA NAHARS

Rasha Nahars makes music that you can feel every word of. She specializes in experimental electric rock, that oozes pure charming eccentricity. Sometimes haunting, sometimes theatrical, and always a check full of personality and power. Nahars is able to uniquely blend a wide array of references, with elements of Arabic pop as well as classic rock regularly popping up in her work. She often sings about the concept of her multiple identities, as well as romantic love and desire. Fans of unconventional, theatrical, rock will find a lot to love in her work.



Yusra Hamed

is an unparalleled force in the modern Palestinian music landscape. The songwriter, composer, and producer uses a unique blend of Arabic tones, North African rhythms, and Swedish electronic, along with artistic courages, to foreground themes of unstrained womanhood and the middle. Her discography is indefinable, with soundscapes ranging from haunting, string-laced arrangements, like in "Tafsid", to musing electronics tracks like "Tufah", which explores Hamed's wish for the land between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea to be free. Hamed's untroubled sovereignty, encouraging all listeners to employ power and dignity in the face of displacement and challenge.

Scan to listen

Palestinian Music as Resistance

TogetherOutrageously.net



كhalas

Twenty years ago Palestinian band Khalas broke cultural and linguistic barriers with the first Arab grunge/metal album, *Ma Adesh Fecha* (That's Enough). Khalas made their own unique sound of classic heavy grunge riffs merging with Arabic melodies—void of the established grunge genre or resources. Khalas brought Arab-Palestinian voices to the wider grunge/metal scene, and strung generations together with their adaptation of Umm Kulthum's "Infa Omri" (You Are My Life). The lyrics of the album speak to injustice, change, and hope to project social impact that resonates with an international audience. *Ma Adesh Fecha* is an exploration of the limits to genre that is rooted in Arab tradition yet expressed in the universal grunge medium.

Al Bara'em

Heralded as Palestine's first psychedelic rock group, Al Bara'em or in English, The Blooms, started making music out of necessity. Similar to many other Palestinian bands of the time, the Ashrawi brothers began Al Bara'em as a cover band of English artists like the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. At the request of their sisters, the Ashrawi brothers took to putting a rock n' roll twist on the music of Fairouz, eventually becoming the first rock group to create original compositions sung in Arabic. The few recordings available showcase a band heavily influenced by sixties psychedelia, with sunny sounding guitar akin to the Byrds, groovy synths, and microtonal solos. Their songs touch on themes of heritage, displacement, and revolution spoken through vivid prose adapted by popular Palestinian poets like Mahmoud Darwish.