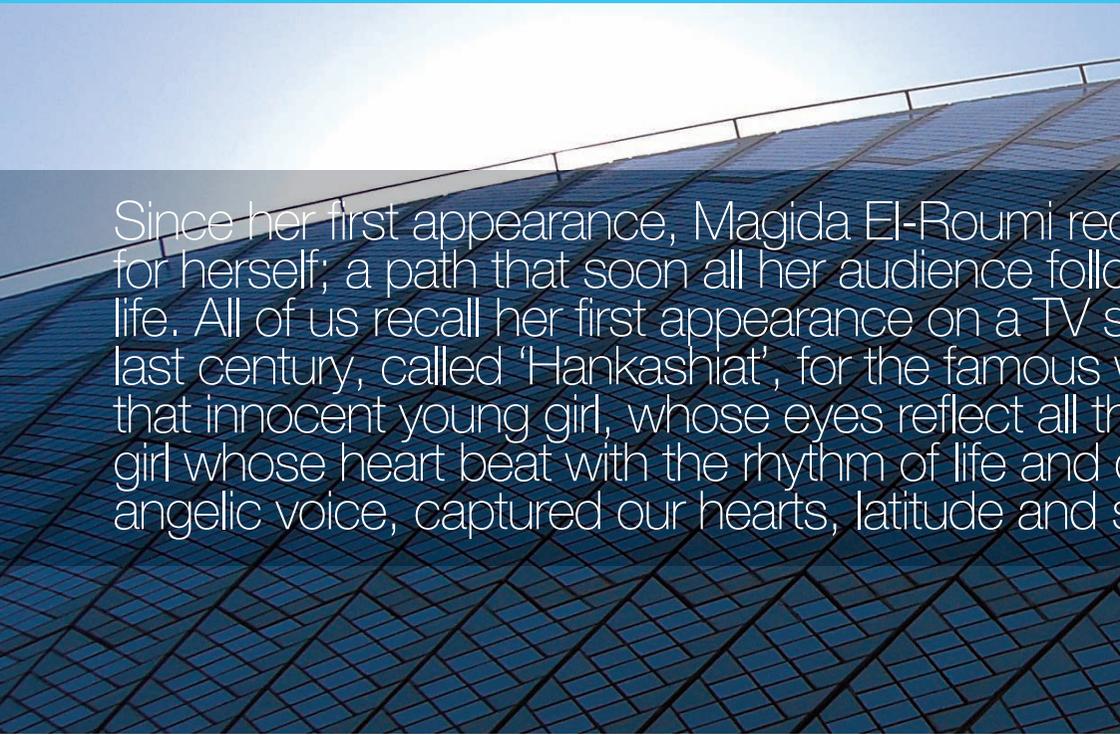




Magida El-Roumi.
An Australian first...



Under our constellation...



Since her first appearance, Magida El-Roumi recited for herself; a path that soon all her audience followed for life. All of us recall her first appearance on a TV show of the last century, called 'Hankashiat', for the famous video of that innocent young girl, whose eyes reflect all the emotions of a girl whose heart beat with the rhythm of life and whose angelic voice, captured our hearts, latitude and longitude.

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She did not fear the writer Najib Hankash whose presence reminded us of a tyrant, nor the gazing eyes of her father Halim El-Roumi who stared at her with affection and a heart as big as the universe.

She recited her song and swiftly left, leaving an echo of harmony and happiness in the souls of all those who heard her sing.

Magida El-Roumi isn't just a vocalist; a song isn't just words and a beautiful harmony for her, but more of a human message to be conveyed. She didn't spring out of the void, but from a musical house who contributed in elevating the Oriental and Arabic song; she was raised in a highly artistic environment and inherited the emphasis of a high standard art. Thus she set her path in the world of music and arts since her puberty, after having earned first



cognized her mission and the path she had set
owed and cheered together with her mission in
show in the beginning of the seventies of the
writer Najib Hankash, where we first spotted
the hope, aspiration and love of giving. A young
of a prosperous tomorrow, together with an
space.

place in a musical talent show called 'Studio El Fan' that took place in Beirut in the year 1974. Ever since she has earned a big place in the hearts and souls of all Lebanese, then Arabs for whom she sang and was received as an honoured guest. She filled all the singing arenas and coliseums and still occupies that first place, designing for herself a clear path, whose main three goals are: the glorification of the almighty God, the respect of all humans and their

dignity by delivering only the best innovations, and enriching her nation's soil with joy, beauty and prosperity armed by a high culture and education.

It is said that the human voice is the world's greatest instrument thus we ask how was Magida El-Roumi's voice?

A voice which resembles the awakening of the blue skies and heaven and a pure heart. The moment she first saw the

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6 light in her hometown Kfarshima, beautiful pictures bloomed together accompanied by footsteps of joy and love whose traces are still carved there. She's like a hymn we sing in the ecstasy of creation, and keep repeating since the sun lights the blue skies of dreams and the skies of show business and the arts of Lebanon. With her shining light, she embraced the East and the West and still glows rays of light and warmth since her first song. Could that be a

coincidence, that her very first song was about the gift, the dream and what we had stored in our memories? Was she glorifying Lebanon, or narrating a story whose heroine was herself without ever noticing it?

Those who don't believe this story let them ask the theatres of Lebanon and its villages and towns, let them trace the towns and theatres of the East and West worlds in search for another

angelic voice to grasp unto, another secret to seek. Let them search in the souls and ideas of the great poets and composers, whose rhythms, dreams, words and heart beat, united with a rare velvety voice, who tames the difficult – or even the impossible, to bring about a soul who aims to achieve three kinds of love: that of God – the creator of all, Man – who is the eternal searcher for perfection and the absolute and the Homeland – who only represents the truth, the knowledge and the freedom!

And for those who still doubt. Here are all the medals that have decorated her life, degrees and diplomas of appreciations, keys to major world cities from the four corners of the earth, whose own walls and armouries can't handle.

In this concept, the great poet of our time Nizar Kabani described her saying: "I liked her thoughts and mind before loving her velvety voice, Magida El-Roumi resembles me in my soul of a rebel in depth. She's very promising; she feels and understands the words which is a rare quality. I believe Lebanon is in great need of her and she will become Lebanon's Ambassador to all Lebanese and Arabs alike." The world's renowned pianist Walid Akl, wrote about her saying; "I'm proud to be Lebanese, since my citizenship corresponds to such a marvellous, clear, irresistible voice like that of Magida El-Roumi, whom we rarely meet an identical artist like her, her talent equals her modesty and her beauty equals her spontaneousness." Mahmoud Darwich also described her saying; "Magida has taken us back to the Arab courts and fields, where her public walked with her accompanying her as if walking in a demonstration." Alike him is Hassan Bouzerbieh, the director of the Cartage International Festival (in Tunisia), when he described her in one of her concerts saying "15 thousand people were all singing together with her, one of her songs as she stood on the stage, Magida can present to us the true and authentic face of a well sober and calm

song which are proud of. She's truly unique." She received numerous medals in Lebanon and the world, in addition to the medal of the people which she receives daily through their love for her and her songs. She had a unique experience in the movies in the year 1975 in the film called 'The Return of the Prodigal Son' for the world renowned director Youssef Chahine for which she received the medal of Egyptian critics. With her first song entitled 'I'm dreaming of you Lebanon', in the year 1975, she performed hundreds of songs and has eleven CDs' and disks, which are cited here in order; 'Goodbye' 1977, a live recording of the concerts 1982, Magida El-Roumi sings for children 1983, the Georges V concert 1989, 'Paroles' or 'Words' 1991, 'Search for me' 1994, 'Letters' 1996, 'I love you and what more' 1998, 'Heaven's harp' 2003, 'Have mercy on me Oh God' 2003, 'I gave up on love' 2006, which came down on people like rain in the desert and last but not least a duet with world famous Spanish Tenor José Carreras in 'Light the way' 2006. Her fame did surpass Lebanon and the Arab world to the whole universe. And the French media and journalists all approve that her voice is 'crystal to the ears'. Thus writing that when she sings, she makes meetings happier, between the swinging of words, rhythms, dreams and the heart beat. And that her voice tames the difficult if not the impossible. In honour to her vast, artistic and humane contribution, the United Nations' Organisation for Food FAO, nominated her Ambassadors since 11/10/2001. And thus she fulfils her new duty well, where she tries to bridge the links between half of the poor world to that of the wealthy one. Throughout her voice which became a messenger of peace for the establishment of new projects for the help of 800 million persons in poverty around the world, who live below the line of poverty and helps them live with dignity to maintain a life.



The most important medals she received throughout her musical career were:

- Medal of National Labour from the Tunisian Presidency 1987
- Shield of the French National Committee 1993
- Medal of High Commander of the Cedars 1994
- Diploma of the 'Algerian Citizen' from the Democratic Peoples Republic of Tunisia 1997
- The shield of 'Doctors with no frontiers' 1999.
- Medal of Honour from the Syndicate of Egyptian Press 2000
- Diploma and Medal of Honour as the honorary Ambassadors of the United Nations Food (FAO) Organisation 2001
- Shield of Honour from Queen Nour El-Hussein from Jordan 2002
- Medal of Merit of the rank of Commander from the Government of the Ivory Coast 2003
- Shield of Honour from the Ministry of Culture in Syria 2004
- Shield of Culture and Golden Medal of the Press for the fiftieth anniversary commemoration of the Liberation war, from the President of Algeria 2005.

Thus El-Roumi makes the elite feel that she sings only to them, for she only recites the most noble of poetry and rhythm and the most sensitive and mild ever. While common people feel that she's their own singer whose voice calls them to stand up in revolution and calls them for joy, for a rendezvous they don't miss and gather around her like a toy in the hands of a child. Magida El-Roumi is Lebanon's letter to the world, and the letter of the world answered by the queen of joy and beauty.

Since her early beginnings, Magida El-Roumi glowed on the theatre of Lebanon and the world and the most important of these theatres are:

- 1982 – The Piccadilly Theatre Lebanon
- 1984 – The Casino Du Liban Theatre Lebanon

- 1986 – The Jarash Festival Jordan and the Cultural Theatre Abu Dhabi
- 1987 – Tunisia, UAE, Damascus, Jordan and Lebanon
- 1988 – Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, Kuwait and Lebanon
- 1989 – Lebanon, Qatar, El Bahrain, New York, Kuwait and Dubai
- 1990 – Tunisia, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York
- 1991 – Canada, Syria, France and Jordan
- 1992 – Dubai, Jordan, Oman and Lebanon
- 1993 – Abu Dhabi, Paris (the Olympia), Qatar and Lebanon
- 1994 – Morocco, Tunisia, France (Cannes), Bahrain and Lebanon
- 1995 – New Jersey (Atlantic City), London (Albert Hall) and Lebanon
- 1996 – Egypt, Jordan, Paris (Palais des Congres) and Lebanon
- 1997 – Kuwait, Tunisia, Dubai, Egypt (beginning with the Cairo National Orchestra), Algeria and Lebanon
- 1998 – Egypt (The Opera House) and New York (Lincoln Centre)
- 1999 – Egypt (The Opera House), Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon
- 2000 – Morocco, Egypt (The Opera House), UAE and Lebanon
- 2001 – Switzerland, Tunisia, Algeria, Italy and Lebanon
- 2002 – Dubai, Egypt (The Opera House) and Lebanon
- 2003 – Egypt (The Opera House), Tunisia, Canada (Palace of Tsars), Lebanon and Africa (Ivory Coast)
- 2004 – Dubai, Qatar, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan
- 2005 – Egypt (Palace of Congress), Algeria, Qatar, Lebanon and Tunisia
- 2006 – Lebanon (BIEL) and a duet with world famous Spanish Tenor José Carreras at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 'Light the way'.