

## Biographies of the singers

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[www.femalevoiceofafghanistan.com](http://www.femalevoiceofafghanistan.com)



### Mashal Arman

is a 37 years old singer who was born in Kabul into a family of renowned musicians. As a child she immigrated with her family to Geneva. She got a degree in flute from the Bern University of Music and a degree in Music Education from the University of Music of Geneva; she studied voice at the Geneva Conservatory and in New York. In her music she is committed to preserving and disseminating the richness of the repertoire of her native culture. In this festival she presents her new ensemble: 'Mashal Arman and the Afghan Project' and she is an integral member of the Kabul Ensemble and performs frequently at International festivals. She collaborates with different ensembles of early and contemporary music.



### Rouya Doost

is a pop singer from Afghanistan. She was born in Herat and grew up in Kabul. She immigrated to Germany as a teenager. She completed her studies in Hamburg in the field of fine arts (graphic design). She created the Rouya Doost band and performed many songs, which were published through different publishing companies both inside and outside of Afghanistan. Currently she lives in Hamburg. In the last 10 years she has mainly lived again in Afghanistan and was next to her work supporting charity organisations who work for orphans in Afghanistan.



### Gulshan

is a 50 years old woman with a strong interest in music and singing the traditional and folk music of Afghanistan. Due to security reasons, she was not able to give her real name. She has been involved also in Media's activities since 2016 as a supporter for national and international women journalists in Afghanistan. She has been encouraging women to have their own stance against gender based regulations. She also did a lot of human rights activities for Afghanistan's LGBT's Community.



### Freshta Farokhi

is a 20 years old singer. She was born in Bamyan Province in Afghanistan. She sings Hazaregi folk music of Bamyan region. At age of 15 for the first time she performed in an artistic program at a Nowruz Festival. She later became a member of the Salsal Music ensemble in Bamyan under the direction of Nasir Soroosh. They had performances at the Afghanistan Independence Festival in the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan and also at Red Rose Festival in Mazar-e-Sharif Province in Afghanistan. She performed as well at music programs of Tolo-TV. Beside her musical activities she had been part of the women football team of Bamyan.



**Sumaia Karimi**

is a 24 years old singer who was born in Kabul. She sings traditional pop music of Afghanistan. She has been a member of the Shamameh Music Ensemble. She had been part of the TV show "Afghan Star". She performed twice at the Damborah Cultural Festival in Bamiyan which had been the first Hazaragi folk music Festival in Afghanistan. Sumaia could learn the basics of traditional music at Agha-Khan art school and on a trip to Iran she studied pop music. In addition to her music and artistic activities, Sumaia Karimi established the Mehr Village charity organization for children in Kabul in 2020. Sumaia had to leave Afghanistan in August 2021. She currently lives with a refugee status in the South of Italy.



**Sadiqa Madadgar**

is a 24 years old singer from Afghanistan. She was born in a religious family in the province of Ghazni in the southern part of Afghanistan. Because of the war, her parents immigrated to Pakistan but she decided to move to Kabul to continue her life independently and follow her dreams in the field of music and sports. She sings traditional-pop music and her most favourite sport is Boxing. She had been part of the Afghan Star, a very famous TV Casting show in Afghanistan. Her music videos in her YouTube channel have been seen a million times. Sadiqa until recently has been very active and she has published many different music clips. She had to leave Kabul at the end of September 2021. Her final destination is currently still unclear.



**Naria Nour**

is a 40 years old singer. She was born in an Afghan family in Mashhad, Iran. She sings traditional music of Herat in Afghanistan. In 2018 she created a music band together with Nasim khoshnawaz (Afghan Rabab player and singer originally from Herat). Since then she has been performing in many private concerts for the Afghan and Iranian communities in Mashhad, in Iran. They have recorded a couple of tracks together. One of them "Shahre Khali" was recently released by Zang-records Company.



**Wajiha Rastagar**

is a 50 years old pop singer, composer and songwriter who was born in Kabul. She is one of the most enduring beloved figures of Afghan music culture. She sings in Farsi and Pashtu. She sings songs with many different themes but most of her recent songs that she has published in Afghanistan have a patriotic spirit. Wajiha has been active in the group "The Red Flower" music Band, together with her husband Farid Rastagar for about 12 years and this music group is very famous in Afghanistan. Farid Rastagar did all the music arrangements of this band. She immigrated to Germany in 1992 due to political problems and limitations in the society of Afghanistan. But because of her love for people of Afghanistan, especially women, children and the local soldiers she decided to spend as much time as possible in Afghanistan to work there. They organized many cultural programs in recent years in different regions of Afghanistan. But in July 2021 they had to leave Kabul again and they are currently in Germany.



**Ghawgha Taban**

is a 24 years old singer, composer and songwriter from Afghanistan. She has been working in the field of music since 2015. Ghawgha is interested in the style of Afghan blues and local music. The content of most of her works is social issues. She somehow denies violence with a romantic theme and sings in praise of peace. Ghawgha had to leave Afghanistan after publishing the piece "I kiss you" in 2019 and since then due to security reasons she is not announcing her living location in public. In a part of the song "I kiss you", it is stated: "You are not afraid of love and the hope for tomorrow... You are not afraid ...I will kiss you among the Taliban...".

