



# Tariq Abdulhakim

## A Melody Between Past and Present

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Tariq Abdulhakim (ca.1920-2012) is widely recognised as the leader of Saudi music’s renewal and development. As a composer, singer, and founder of numerous initiatives that have laid the foundation for the development of Saudi music, he is credited with being the architect of modern Saudi song and the driving force behind its illustrious golden age. Abdulhakim’s collaborations with other Saudi and Arab musicians helped transform the genre from simple traditional melodies to a more sophisticated form with an integrated modern sensibility. Drawing on his wealth of experience, he created a modern song structure that could compete with the evolving music scene in the Arab world.

In his honour, the Ministry of Culture has established a cultural centre that bears his name, aptly named the “Tariq Abdulhakim Center.” This centre serves as a tribute to his remarkable legacy, offering visitors a comprehensive view of his life, personal possessions, artistic achievements, contributions to the evolution of military music, and his deep passion for both heritage and contemporary songs. It also houses a music research centre boasting an extensive collection of music archives from the late musician.

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