

CultureTalk Iraqi Arabic Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Iraqi Songs and TV Shows

English Translation:

Iraqi music or Iraqi taste in general when it comes to music and songs and [TV] series differs from one generation to another of course. For songs, Iraqis like Egyptian and Iraqi old ones. They listen mostly to Umm Kalthum, and Abdul Halim Haafez, Fareed Al-Atrash; they also listen to Mohammad Abdul Wahaab, they love them so much and listen to them most of the time.

As for Iraqi songs, Kaadem Al-Saaher is the first choice definitely. There are other names, young singers who emerged. There is Mohannad Muhsen, and Haitham Yousef. For songs in general, Iraqis like sober¹ songs. There are songs with a fast rhythm, a fast pace that they dislike, and that's why you see them always listen to old songs both Egyptian and Iraqi as I mentioned.

As for Egyptian series, they are highly preferable of course. Most series, if you ask anyone, from five or six years old until 50, 60 or 70 years old, if you ask them "Which is your favorite series?", he would answer "I like Egyptian ones". The most liked are *Al-Maal wal Banoon*², *Layaali el-Helmiya*³ is very famous, *Ra'afat el-Hajan*⁴, etc.

People watch most [TV] during the blessed month of Ramadan because their schedule is very short and they don't think of fasting and how hard it is. So you see them pass the time [this way].

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¹ *Raznah*: Iq. Dialect for "sober".

² "Wealth and Children"

³ "Nights of Helmiya"

⁴ Ra'fat Al Hajan is a drama based on real story of an Egyptian spy in Israel during the October War in 1967.