Mariam Wafa

BIO

Mariam Wafa is an Afghan American singer of Afghan and Egyptian heritage whose lively performances blend traditional Afghan melodies with Afghan pop, Indian music, Middle Eastern sounds, and contemporary global influences. Born in Kabul and raised in California, she began recording in the early 1990s and quickly built a devoted following among Afghan audiences worldwide.

After years of war and restrictions that silenced music and women performers, Mariam was among the first musicians and the first woman to bring music back to Afghanistan. Her songs became an immediate hit, rising quickly on the charts and earning widespread celebration throughout the country and among international audiences.

Mariam Wafa sings both traditional and original songs in five languages and choreographs her own dance performances, bringing movement and lively energy to every show.

The Mariam Wafa Ensemble is a Bay Area World Fusion Ensemble rooted in Afghan musical traditions, with influences from South Asian, Asian, and contemporary Western music. Featuring accomplished musicians, the ensemble brings together rich rhythms, expressive vocals, and dance in vibrant live performances celebrating music from around the world.

BAND CONFIGURATION & INSTRUMENTATION

The Mariam Wafa ensemble features a core lineup of five musicians and can expand to as many as 14, tailored to the event, venue, and production needs.

Instrumentation may include:

Lead Vocals
Keyboard
Drums and Percussion
Guitar and Bass Guitar
Contra Bass
Violin
Flute
Accordion
Trumpet
Robab
Saz
Tabla
Harmonium
Flute

THE MARIAM WAFA STORY

Mariam Wafa was born in the beautiful city of Kabul, Afghanistan, where she lived until the age of five. Due to the war in Afghanistan, she and her family were forced to leave their beloved homeland and seek refuge in California, United States, where she continues to reside.

Mariam completed her education in the United States. From an early age, she had a deep passion for music, which led her to pursue professional studies in Eastern music at the Ali Akbar Khan College of Music. She later continued her musical education in Western music at a college in the United States.

Mariam began her professional music career with the release of her first album *Wafa in 1997*, and followed by many more.. Throughout her musical journey, she has continued to release numerous singles, sharing her voice, artistry, and passion for music with audiences around the world.

She sings in Pashto, Dari, Farsi (Persian), Hindi, Urdu, and English, embracing a diverse range of musical styles and cultures.

Due to professional commitments, Mariam stepped away from music for an extended period. However, following the heartfelt encouragement and persistent requests of her fans, she returned to the music world with a series of hit songs, including *As Obama*, *Bonuya*, *Kaman*, and *Kajak Abroo*, marking the revival of her artistic career.

Through her numerous concerts in different countries, Mariam has brought joy to Afghan audiences around the world. She has dedicated the proceeds from these concerts to supporting underprivileged children and orphans in Afghanistan. She also hopes to establish an orphanage in her homeland in the future to provide care, shelter, and support for children in need.

Mariam Wafa is determined to continue her musical journey, releasing new songs and reconnecting with her devoted fans while reclaiming the special place she holds in their hearts.

Mariam Wafa was one of the pioneering Afghan female singers who courageously stepped into the music industry following the civil wars in Afghanistan, bringing joy, hope, and inspiration to her people. Her journey helped encourage and inspire other Afghan women singers who have since become prominent voices in the music industry.