

# Umm Kulthum Timeline



1889-1904

Umm Kulthum is born the Nile Delta to a poor family. Her exact birth date is unknown.



Early  
1910's

Umm Kulthum tours with her father, dressing as a boy since girls could not recite and sing Quranic verses

1923

Umm Kulthum's family moves to Cairo. She takes music lessons with private teachers and begins holding performances.

1926



Umm Kulthum hires a professional ensemble, *takht*, and joins the ranks of prestigious Egyptian singers. She signs a contract with Gramophone Records.

1932

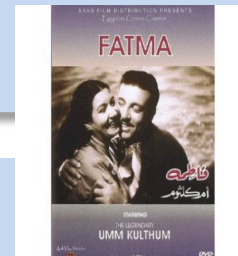
Umm Kulthum goes on a popular tour throughout the Middle East. *See Lesson 1*

1934

After inaugurating Radio Cairo, Umm Kulthum begins monthly broadcast concerts that become a highlight of Egyptian life. *See Lessons 2, 4, 5*

1936

Umm Kulthum stars in her first film, and goes on to star in five more throughout her life despite her lack of acting experience.



1938

A shrewd businesswoman, Umm Kulthum begins to negotiate her own contracts and produce her own concerts. *See Lesson 6*

1944

King Farouk grants Umm Kulthum with the highest Egyptian order of Knighthood.



1952

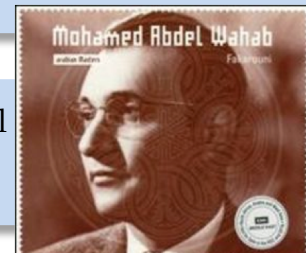
The Egyptian Revolution begins. A group of high-ranking Egyptian soldiers, calling themselves The Free Officers, launch a coup d'état, overthrowing the ruling King Farouk. Gamal Abdel Nasser becomes president. *See Lesson 7*

1953

Umm Kulthum commissioned poet Ahmed Rami to write a national song, titled “Egypt, Which Is in My Mind and My Blood”, showing her support of the new government of Gamal Abdel Nasser. *See Lesson 7*

1965

Umm Kulthum partners with Mohamed Abdel Wahab, a fellow singer and songwriter to produce the popular song “Inta Omri”.



1967

The Six Day War occurs in June. Israel captures the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank from Jordan and the Golan Heights from Syria.



Umm Kulthum begins a series of domestic and international concerts for Egypt after the war's defeat. These concerts were very publicized and took on the character of state visits. *See Lesson 8*

1973

Kidney failure ends Umm Kulthum's career.

1975

Umm Kulthum dies from heart failure at around age 70. Millions of Egyptians and people from around the world crowd the streets of Cairo to pay their final respects at her funeral.

