

Dina El Wedidi

Music Protégée

Singled out for the originality of her voice and style by all who hear her, Egyptian Dina El Wedidi, 24, has made her mark on her country's music scene over the past five years. El Wedidi started composing songs when she was young and during university in Cairo where she studied oriental languages. El Wedidi's songs are infused with the political concerns of Egypt. From 2007 to 2010, El Wedidi worked as a singer and actress with the El Warsha Theatre Troupe, exploring Egyptian folklore and performing in such unlikely places as a Cairo prison. During this period (2009 to 2010), she also performed classical Egyptian and Arab songs with the Habayebna band, before establishing her own band in 2011. Of her year with Mentor Gilberto Gil, she says: "I'm hoping to create a fusion between my world of Egyptian folklore and oriental music with the bossa nova beats of Gil."

Birth date: 1 October 1987