

## Souad Massi



Souad Massi (born 1972) is an Algerian Berber singer, songwriter and guitarist. Her music, which prominently features the acoustic guitar, has many influences such as rock, country and Portuguese fado. Massi sings in Classical Arabic, Algerian Arabic, Egyptian Arabic, French, occasionally in English, and in the Kabyle Berber language, often employing more than one language in the same song.

Souad Massi was born in Algiers, Algeria to a poor family of six children. Encouraged by her older brother, she began singing and playing guitar when she was very young. Growing up, she immersed herself in American country music – a musical style that would later strongly influence her songwriting. In the early 1990s, Massi joined the Algerian political rock band Atakor, who were influenced by Western rock bands such as Led Zeppelin and U2. She recorded and performed with the group for seven years, releasing a successful album. The band, however, with its political lyrics and growing popularity, became a political target. Massi disguised herself by cutting her hair and dressing in male clothes, but she nevertheless became the target of many death threats.

In 1999, Massi performed at the Femmes d'Algérie concert in Paris, which led to a recording contract with Island Records. So she left the band and moved to Paris, where she now lives with her two daughters.

### Examples of her songs:

Ghir Enta:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYStxC90iqE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYStxC90iqE</a>	(Arabic)(Live)
Faya Layla:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONYZ4ALSy8I">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONYZ4ALSy8I</a>	(Arabic)
Malou:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb7TzCWB4Vc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb7TzCWB4Vc</a>	(Arabic)
Raoui:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6c2Db8eHYK8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6c2Db8eHYK8</a>	(Arabic)(Live)
Une Seule Étoile:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luOdX50FJbY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luOdX50FJbY</a>	(French)