



Kareem Salama

Singer

Egyptian-American Country Singer Promotes Diversity with Music

Inspired by his two worlds, Egyptian-American country singer Kareem Salama brings listeners along for a ride with his latest song.

In describing “Makes Me Crazy,” Salama’s single released in January, fan Marcia S. Lamb said online, “How perfect the timing in bring[ing] all peoples together in such happiness and joy. A true message to the world of how we can be. I love it!!!”

Salama pens lyrics that celebrate diversity. Growing up in Oklahoma helped him see the world that way.

“Oklahoma, like me, is a place where cultures meet and dance,” Salama says on his website. “Oklahoma is a hybrid of Southern, Western and Native American culture and thanks to my mother’s insatiable desire to learn and experience all of it she

made sure that I was immersed in all of it.”

A holder of degrees in chemical engineering and law, Salama is in his early 30s and comes from a home where trying new things is encouraged. His website says a household rule is “If the opportunity is available and your heart inclines towards something then don’t be afraid to give it a try.”

In 2006, Salama released his first album, *Generous Peace*, and followed it a year later with *This Life of Mine*. The song “A Land Called Paradise” on *Generous Peace* provided the soundtrack for an award-winning video highlighting diversity in the Muslim-American community.

On the cusp of releasing his third album, Salama has performed throughout Europe and at venues across America. In his youth, he traveled to rodeos, county fairs and American Indian gatherings and was exposed to bluegrass and country music in Missouri and Tennessee.

“There is a kind of soul in country music ... something that comes from deeper down. ... You can still hear something very old and very



traditional,” Salama says in an interview with altmuslim.com.

A practicing Muslim, Salama combines his faith with the songwriting process. “I pray before and after I write a song,” Salama said in a University of Iowa interview. “I choose each word carefully. I try to be very honest and hope that God brings this song into people’s hearts.”

Salama, who speaks fluent Arabic and has memorized classical Arabic poetry, features the importance of tolerance in one of his songs by quoting Muslim scholar Imam Shafi’ee: “I am like incense — the more you burn me, the more fragrant I become.”

Kareem Salama grew up experiencing diverse cultures in Oklahoma. Photos © Ruby Duncan



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Akkad



DeBakey



El-Baz



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Gibran



Haiek



Hayek



Kasem



Khaled



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Masry



McAuliffe



Shihab Nye



Rihani



Said



Salama



Shamieh



Zerhouni



Zewail



Tlaib

Rashid Abdu, Physician
Ahmed Ahmed, Comedian
Moustapha Akkad, Film Director
Michael DeBakey, Heart Surgeon
Farouk El-Baz, Geologist
Gaida, Singer
Kahlil Gibran, Artist and Poet
Joseph Haiek, Publisher
Salma Hayek, Actress
Casey Kasem, Radio Broadcaster
DJ Khaled, Rap Music Artist
Khalid Khannouchi, Marathon Runner
Ferial Masry, Community Activist
Christa McAuliffe, Teacher in Space
Naomi Shihab Nye, Author
Ameen Rihani, Poet
Edward Said, Author and Activist
Kareem Salama, Singer
Betty Shamieh, Playwright
Rashida Tlaib, Politician
Elias Zerhouni, Medical Vanguard
Ahmed Zewail, Chemist