

INTERVIEW TO
AMMAR SALLOUM
Syria

September 26th 2020

T: Hello Ammar. I want to thank you for accepting this interview. Maybe you don't know, but the interview page is not only open to musicians, but also to fans like you, politicians, people who work in the music biz and even to commune people. One thing is for sure, here we talk about music in general.

A: Hello Tiziana, I'm very happy with the musicians, fans and politicians who will be seeing me here.

T: I would start by asking you what music young Syrians listen to these days and if in Syria you have some super-loved artist (any kind of music).

A: Young people here in Syria listen to oriental folk music and there are many artists in this field and this type of music is used a lot on wedding occasions and there are also many people who listen to the musical genre related to heritage and kind of music called Tarab in Syria, As for me I do not listen to this music But there is an artist I have heard of for a long time, his name is George Wassouf, and I think that all Syrians love him.

Also, there are a few who listen to Pop and Jazz.

T: Tell me about Metal Music. I suppose it's not welcome, but young people listen to him anyway? I've found that there are so many metal bands in Syria, but if they're not allowed, how do they get together and how do they make themselves known to people if their music is banned?

A: Metal music in Syria is prohibited and unpopular. A small group of people listen to it and resort to it to relieve their pain, suffering, and relieve their anger, and their number is about 2000 to 5000 people.

In fact, there are no actual or ongoing metal bands, but a group of friends who love metal meet and decide to release albums or single songs and then publish them among their friends as well or create a Facebook page to introduce themselves and if they want to hold a party, they decide on Facebook and the party is in a Small cafe and closed areas because this music is not eligible or allowed here.

T: What kind of music do you listen to and which international artists do you like? Do you play an instrument?

A: I hear Metal and Rock Music on a daily basis, which is my favorite, but I am not biased towards this type only. I like to listen to Pop Music sometimes and also I like to listen to Classical Music.

My favorite artist and in the first place is Jon Oliva and all the bands he made. This great man has given great music to the world, and also from my favorite bands: Adnan Hamdan, Dio, Therion, Nightwish, Axell Rudi Pell, Queen, Absolve, Sonata Arctica...and many other.

- Yes, I play guitar.

T: I see you on Facebook, and sometimes I see your likes in my posts and thank you for your support. Facebook is an international social network, so you can contact as many musicians and bands as you want. Have you chatted with any of your idols before? And how's their reaction when you say you live in Syria?

A: *Yes, I like your posts and I would love to see what's new in the world of music and listen to new bands and the music that you share.*

- I have not spoken to an artist or band yet, and I think if I talked to anyone then he knows that I am from Syria and hear metal and play guitar, he will be really shocked and may not believe it until he sees with his own eyes.

T: How is the situation now in your country, and if you were to associate a song with the current situation, which one you would choose and why.

A: *It is sad to say that the situation now in my country is the same as in the past, as the infrastructure, production resources and electric power generation in Syria have been destroyed by the terrorists. There is suffering. There is pain and we cannot do anything, and the most thing we as musicians suffer from is that electric energy is not Available at all times.*

- I want to link three songs that simulate our lives now. The first song is called "no more war" by Adnan Hamdan, this song was made by Adnan during the war, spoke about the war and suffering in Syria.

There is also a song called "Peace" by Jon Oliva's Pain, and "Dreamer" by Ozzy Osbourn.

These songs send a message of peace and demand an end to wars and suffering, the union of humanity, and spread love and music.

T: I thank you again for your time and I leave to you to finish this interview leaving a message to the world

A: Thank you Tiziana, and good luck.

I want to tell the world that we live under one sky and in one land, so let us live as one.

Spread peace, spread love, spread music.

Ammar

SolMusic Consulting & Management

Tiziana Hurd, President

<http://www.solmusicconsultingandmanagement.com>