

# Music

## Lara Scandar Skyrockets

**Lara Scandar** shot out of Star Academy and into the music scene with her first single 'Mission is You'. **Danny Qiblawi** gets the whole story.

### When did you first get started with music?

I grew up in a musical home. My father, mother and grandfather all sing as a hobby. Music was played from dusk till dawn in my house. I used to sing for the love of music. Technically speaking, I actually started singing before I could speak. I was always humming to songs and making sounds in line with nursery rhymes. My dad took me to a studio when I was just 3 and a half and I recorded a version of a Disney song.

### What about your own music?

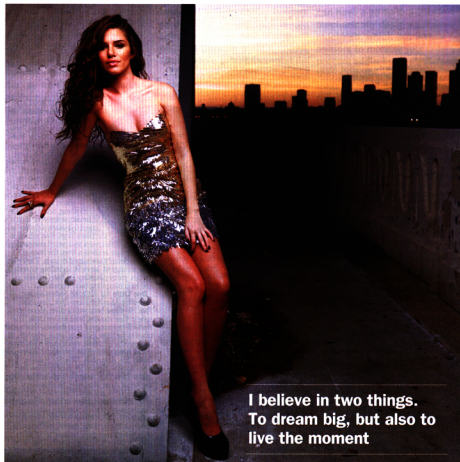
I started writing my own songs when I was 12. I'm not the kind of person who can talk about her feelings, so it was like a kind of therapy for me. It started as words and lines, then developed to poems, then songs. I've always loved music, but I didn't take myself seriously.

### So was Star Academy kind of like boot camp?

I was a die-hard star academy fan - sometimes I used to travel just to see the prime. I always thought I would audition, but I had a problem with Arabic singing. I was too young, and they weren't accepting non-Arabic singers at the time, but the third season gave me a push. I graduated from high school. I tried out and got on the show that I had been watching for 5 years.

### And now you have your new single, 'Mission is You'. How did you meet Jean-Marie?

He just started flipping through the show and saw my performances. Luckily, he contacted me



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after I got out of the academy. As soon as I heard who it was, I was just like 'yes'. We met at a studio a couple of times and he got me a few tracks. 'Mission is You' was not written by me - Jean Marie received these songs and we managed to give it our own flavour. The song was originally very much a pop song. We gave it a bit of an oriental twist and added arabesque sounds. I'm very blessed for everything - my family, Jean Marie, everything.

### Who would you say inspires you musically?

I listen to everything from pop and RnB, to country, to Arabic, to

blues - musically, I'm messed in the head. I don't have any specific music influences because I'm still discovering my sound. I'm very inspired by Lady Gaga and Beyonce. I love the way Beyonce uses her vocals, and Lady Gaga's beats. Christina Aguilera is my all-time favourite singer, though. She's very similar to me because she's very different onstage from offstage.

### Speaking of Lady Gaga and Beyonce, you did a music video with Ray Kay...

Ray Kay worked with most of my favourite artists - I didn't even give it a second thought. Jean Marie adopted me - he was with

me at every step of the way. And he previously met Ray Kay. I feel very blessed, especially singing in English. I want to do something big - on international standards.

### What are your hopes for the future?

I'm just at the beginning of my journey, and I've had a great start. I believe in two things. I believe in dreaming big, but also to live for the moment. I'm working on doing much more. I'm hoping for the best with this single, and hope fully an album in the future. I just finished part of the tour in Cairo - it went really, really well, and I hope it will get even better.