This audio feature highlights the unknown facts including the hidden talents of Dr. Fikry Boutros. It gives the listeners a glimpse about how he started singing and his beliefs regarding the effect of singing on the students’ psychology which is the reason why he allows students who sing to interrupt his classes with music.

VOX POPS: FADE IN: Dr Fikry’s Boutros (FB) former students at A-U-C saying “NO.” [00:00:07]

MUSIC: FADE IN: Percussion background music - Bensound [00:00:29]

Narrator (HK): Those were the replies of some former students when they were asked if they ever knew that Dr. Fikry Boutros sings. Dr. Fikry, or “Fiko,” as he’s called by most of his students, is very well known among students at the American University in Cairo which we just call it A-U-C. He has a unique teaching style and character. However, it turned out that they still don’t know about his hidden talents.

SFX: FADE IN: Footsteps [00:00:03]

HK: I’m now searching for him so that he could tell us more about what we still don’t know. Let’s see where I’ll find him. In his office? No. If you want to find him, you shouldn’t go to his office, as you’ll probably won’t find him there. Instead he will always be sitting around The Bakery Shop - TBS, which is close to the Rhetoric and Composition Department where his office is, having his favourite drink.

NAT SOUND: FADE IN: Dr. Fikry ordering coffee [00:00:07]

It’s double macchiato. He really loves coffee and that’s what his students may know about him, but there are a couple of things that are still hidden.

Dr. Fikry Boutros (FB): Well, there are a few things about me that students don't know. One of them is the I'm originally an engineer even though I work at the RHET department and the linguistics teaching courses there, but my undergraduate studies were science. [00:00:19]

HK: I got the chance during our interview to record something that according to Dr. Fikry not all people will recognize, so let’s see if you can.

MUSIC: FADE IN: The Godfather Theme - Fingerstyle Guitar by AcousticTrench [00:00:29]

NAT SOUND: FADE IN: The Godfather Theme music in Sicilian by Dr. Fikry [00:00:22]

HK: You may have guessed it right. It’s the Godfather theme music in Sicilian and yes, this is one more new fact about him. He sings!
FB: Since I was a child, we used to sing at home altogether and I remember when I was young and I would invite my friends my best friends over. And they would stay on and sleepover. They wouldn't be able to sleep at night because I was singing all night long to the point that they had to kick me out of the room. [00:00:19]

HK: That’s still not all about him as he doesn’t only sing in English.

FB: I sing in any language that I speak. [00:00:02]

HK: Besides English and Italian, OH! I forgot to tell you that he has Italian origins, the multi-talented professor speaks about five languages. He is very fond of learning new languages and that’s why he tries to master as many as he can.

NAT SOUND: FADE IN: Dr. Fikry Playing the piano [00:00:27]

HK: Not only is he a unique singer, but he’s a pianist too.

FB: When I started playing the piano, I started a very early age very young age I was like five or six and I started you know seriously with teachers and classical music and reading music sheets and so on. So, it was purely classical music which I still do and I still play classical pieces. [00:00:16]

HK: Dr. Fikry is also a great believer in the impact of music on the psychology of individuals.

FB: Anybody who's tried singing karaoke or even singing at home or in the car or humming a tune I'm sure they felt the impact it has on their psycholog. [00:00:10]

FB: Singing releases energy. Positive energy. That definitely makes you feel better after you've sung and before. [00:00:07]

HK: According to a study published in 2015 on Researchgate, “singing can be intrinsically motivating, attention focusing, and simply enjoyable for learners of all ages” (Frank et al. 2015) and that’s basically why Dr. Fikry was very welcoming to the idea of crashing A-U-C classes with music, which was initiated by Gabrielle Bishara, a student at AUC, when he first heard about it.

FB: Gaby is a very old friend and he's even a family friend and I've known him since he decided to start singing. [00:00:08]
SCRIPT: “FIKO: What’s Still Hidden?”
Haidy E. Kandil
April, 2019

NAT SOUND: FADE IN: Gaby crashing Dr. Fikry’s class with music [00:00:16]

HK: This was recorded during one of Dr. Fikry’s classes and that’s how I came to know that he sings.

FB: The students are shocked and they're even more shocked because they all look at me to see what my reaction would be and they’re even more shocked when they see my reaction is that I just go along with him and keep singing and it turns out turns into a song that you know everybody enjoys. [00:00:11]

HK: Fiko has always been an inspiration for many students which is a fact that most of them, including me, vouch for and he couldn’t resist ending this without giving some pieces of advice for those who want to pursue singing as a career or harness their talents.

MUSIC: FADE IN: Bensound - A New Beginning [00:00:27]

FB: Take the necessary practice and training and just go and do it. Don't stop because you feel embarrassed or you feel nervous or you don't like to do it in front of people because you might be missing out on a lot of chances in life that you things you love and people would enjoy. But it's all restrictions that we put to ourselves. [00:00:20]

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