

Dimash Kudaibergen

Most people know how to sing a basic scale. Begin at a comfortable pitch and proceed: Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti, Do. If you're not sure how it should sound, there's that memorable scene in *The Sound of Music*.



You'll notice that by the time you reach the second "do", you are singing the same note as the first "do", but higher. You have covered the distance, musically speaking, of one octave. This is a stretch of eight notes. The chances are, you can go a bit higher, but unless you're a trained vocalist, not much. It might surprise you to know there are people (very few, but they exist), who can do six octaves. One of them is Dimash Kudaibergen.

Kazakhstan

This rising star vocalist comes from the central Asian country of Kazakhstan. This is a huge but sparsely populated country. Its inhabitants are the product of centuries of blending of influences from China, Russia and Persia. As a result, Kazakh people tend to speak Kazakh and Russian, while also being close to China. This has served Dimash's singing career well, because it has enabled him to access audiences all over the Eurasian landmass.



Musical Upbringing

It's not surprising that Dimash grew up in a musical household. His parents and grandparents all play instruments or sing. On his own website, Dimash describes his family as "musical royalty". This grandiosity seems to fit well with his persona as a pop artist. As a child in a Kazakh home he learned traditional Kazakh music. He also learned Central Asian instruments such as the dombra, which he plays sometimes on stage. The dombra is similar to a lyre. It's a small, pear-shaped wooden instrument with strings that the player plucks or strikes. As a young person in the 21st century, though, he would have been equally well versed in pop and rock music. The result is his own, distinctive fusion of the two. It's a combination that seems to be working with audiences the world over, including China, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.



Rise to Fame

Dimash has already been touted as one of the very few living vocalists with the elusive six-octave range. This puts him in a very small category of people that includes Mariah Carey, another singer famous for hitting very high notes. It's perhaps all the more striking in a male singer, though, because it's so unexpected. And for the most part, it's simply the result of genetics. Dimash's voice is classified as counter-tenor, which is really the highest possible pitch for an adult male voice. At only 26, he has performed at major events such as Miss World and the Cannes Film Festival. Interestingly, though, he did not succeed in the "Masked Singer" competition, in which singers have to sing in disguise. It's not very clear why this happened, but perhaps it's because his act is a package deal. It's not just about the extremely flexible voice. His on-stage persona, interesting fusion of cultural influences and quirky personality are probably all involved in his growing popularity.

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