



June 20, 2006

Interviews

'Sounds of Silence': Rocking Out in Iran

Audio for this story will be available at approx. 3:00 p.m. ET



Rapper Hich-Kas, whose lyrics are inspired by verses from the Koran, records a song in a scene from the documentary *Sounds of Silence*. Amir Hamz and Mark Lazarz © 2006

Day to Day, June 20, 2006 · Culturally, the Western world sees Iran as cloaked in black robes and turbans, a nation repressed by conservative mullahs and ideologically pristine.

Behind the image is a stark reality -- more than 65 percent of the nation's population is 25 years old or younger, and there is a youth culture eager to break free.

Filmmakers Amir Hamz and Mark Lazarz capture that restless spirit in a documentary titled *Sounds of Silence*. The film profiles a generation of artists who are creating and distributing new music behind the back of the Islamic republic.

Unlike the traditional music approved by religious censors, these musicians choose to rock -- and even rap -- all the while, dodging the authorities.

And the music they create finds unlikely inspiration from the Koran and revered mystical poets and philosophers from Persia's golden age.

Music from 'Sounds of Silence'

Hear full-length music cuts from groups featured in the documentary:

['Darvish' by O-Hum](#)

['Madaama' by Barobax](#)

['Baxet Kojan' by Hich-Kas](#)

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Members of the rock group Karma -- Payam Shahidsales on guitar, and Mohammad Reza Erfani on vocals. Amir Hamz and Mark Lazarz © 2006