



## AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

### Music Initiative



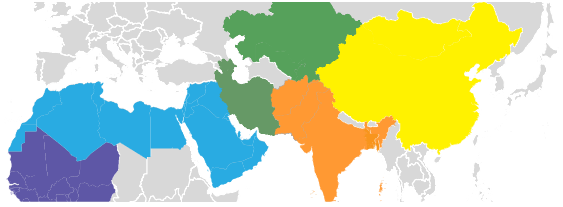
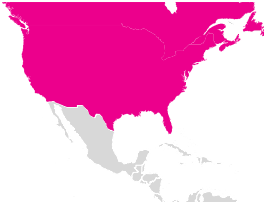
# PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME













These Performance Programmes are curated and produced by the Aga Khan Music Initiative (AKMI). AKMI is an interregional music and arts education programme with worldwide performance, outreach, mentoring, and artistic production activities.









# PERFORMANCE PROGRAMMES









## TRADITIONAL

-  The Route of Genghis Khan
-  The Celebrations of Navruz
-  Alim Qasimov Ensemble
-  Musical Traditions of the Uyghurs
-  In the Shrine of the Heart
-  Bardic Divas
-  Women's Voices from Central Eurasia
-  The Badakhshan Ensemble
-  Music of Shashmaqom, Academy of Maqom
-  Ensemble Tengir-Too








## CONTEMPORARY

-  The Art of the Afghan Rubab
-  Trio Da Kali
-  Soriana: Contemporary Music from the Orient
-  New Sounds from the Arab Lands
-  Fargana Qasimova Ensemble
-  Wu Man & Master Musicians from the Silk Route

## ORIGIN OF ARTISTS

-  **NORTH AMERICA**  
United States of America
-  **MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA**  
Egypt, Tunisia, Syria
-  **CENTRAL ASIA & WEST ASIA**  
Azerbaijan, Badakhshan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Iran, Uzbekistan
-  **WEST AFRICA**  
Mali
-  **SOUTH ASIA**  
Afghanistan, India, Pakistan
-  **EAST ASIA**  
China, Mongolia

## INTERREGIONAL

-  In the Footsteps of Babur
-  Kronos Quartet & Homayun Sakhi Trio
-  Kronos Quartet & Alim Qasimov Ensemble
-  Kronos Quartet & Trio Da Kali
-  Wu Man and Friends
-  Invisible Face of the Beloved
-  Sound: Transcending Borders

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# THE ROUTE OF GENGHIS KHAN



© David Horsman

Byambajargal Gombodorj  
vocal (Mongolia)

Ulzhan Baibussynova  
vocal, dombra (Kazakhstan)

Raushan Urazbayeva  
qyl-qobyz (Kazakhstan)

Adinai Kudabaeva  
komuz (Kyrgyzstan)

Ardak Issataeva  
vocal (Kazakhstan)

**This new programme offers a panoramic presentation of the Music and Voices of Central Asian Nomads.**

**Designed to present audiences with a broad perspective on the richness and diversity of the artistic traditions of the region, this concert will offer an introduction to the musical world of nomads, featuring percussions, singing, and healing music in contemporary, tradition-inspired interpretation.**



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# CELEBRATIONS OF NAVRUZ



© Sabine Chatel / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Academy of Maqam  
Music of Shashmaqom  
Homayun Sakhi Trio

Sirojiddin Juraev  
tanbur, dutar (Tajikistan)

Abbos Kosimov  
doira (Uzbekistan)

Mohammad Motamedi  
vocal (Iran)

Nodira Pirmatova  
vocal (Uzbekistan)

**This new programme offers a panoramic presentation of the Music and Voices of the Silk Route. Designed to present audiences with a broad perspective on the richness and diversity of the artistic traditions of the region, this concert showcases new talents and presents a celebration of the most loved and revered holiday in the region, the Welcoming of the Spring.**



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# ALIM QASIMOV ENSEMBLE

Spiritual Sounds of Azerbaijan



© Sebastian Schutyser / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Alim Qasimov  
vocal, daf  
Fargana Qasimova  
vocal, daf  
Rauf Islamov  
kamancha  
Zaki Valiyev  
tar  
Rafael Asgarov  
balaban  
Javidan Nabiyev  
naghara

Alim Qasimov and his daughter Fargana exemplify the explosive artistic energy that results when a powerful musical model ignites the spark of young talent. Fargana Qasimova's talent gravitated toward the music she heard from her father: Azerbaijani classical music, known as mugham, and the repertoire of bardic songs sung by ashigs, modern-day troubadours and singer-songwriters. The Qasimovs are accompanied by a quartet of young musicians whose talent was shaped both by formal music education and immersion in Azerbaijani oral tradition.

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# MUSIC OF THE UYGHURS

Master Musicians from the Silk Route



© Feng Li / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Sanubar Tursun  
dutar, vocal

Hesenjan Tursun  
satar

Husenjan Tursun  
tambur

**This programme introduces three outstanding Uyghur musicians performing traditional repertoires while simultaneously working to develop and communicate their art in the contemporary world. Programme includes traditional folksongs and suites of classical vocal and instrumental pieces that belong to the repertoire of the Uyghur Muqam.**

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# IN THE SHRINE OF THE HEART

Popular Classics from Bukhara & Beyond



© David Horsman

Nodira Pirmatova  
vocal, dutar

Sirojiddin Juraev  
dutar

Abbos Kosimov  
doira

The musical world of Central Asia's sedentary artists comprises a vast repertoire of songs and instrumental pieces that encompass the entire spectrum of civic life, from devotion and prayer to festivity and celebration. In the great cities of Samarqand, Bukhara, and Khiva, connoisseurs of traditional music and poetry have created a cult of song centered around great performers of what can be called popular classic music. Singer-songwriters who composed this music set melodies to Sufi-inspired Persian and Turkic-language poetry in classical forms of ghazal and rubâ'iyât, performed both a cappella and with instrumental accompaniment in a variety of regional styles and genres.



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# BARDIC DIVAS

Female Voices of Central Asia



© Kate Vincent / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Ulzhan Baibussynova  
vocal, dombra (Kazakhstan)

Raushan Urazbayeva  
Qyl-qobyz (Kazakhstan)

Nodira Pirmatova  
vocal, dutar, tanbur (Uzbekistan)

*With guest artists*

**The Silk Road serves as an enduring symbol of humanity joined together by trade and cultural exchange. At the very centre of the Silk Road lands, amid the vast steppe and great oasis cities of Central Asia, two very different civilizations – nomadic and sedentary – preserve their own distinctive patterns of culture. In this programme, four talented young artists represent the contemporary face of their heritage, music shaped both by the intimate relationship of pastoralists to the natural world, and by the social and spiritual needs of small clan-bound communities.**

# WOMEN'S VOICES FROM CENTRAL EURASIA

Bardic Divas, Nomads and Sedentaries



© Roger Thomas

Byambajargal Gombodorj  
vocal (Mongolia)

Ulzhan Baibussynova  
vocal, dombra (Kazakhstan)

Raushan Urazbayeva  
qyl-qobyz (Kazakhstan)

Adinai Kudabaeva  
komuz (Kyrgyzstan)

Nodira Pirmatova  
vocal, dutar, tanbur (Uzbekistan)

Tawus Annamyradova  
vocal, dutar (Turkmenistan)

Fargana Qasimova  
vocal, daf (Azerbaijan)

Ozoda Ashurova  
vocal, doira (Tajikistan)

“Bardic Divas” celebrates the artistic talent and diverse performance traditions of exceptional female singers and instrumentalists from Central Eurasia. The “divas” presented in this concert come from seven countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Each performer is a master of a culturally unique tradition that has evolved within its own social and artistic world. Some of these traditions are specific to female performers and have typically been performed within a social milieu restricted to women. In other cases, female musicians have appropriated traditions dominated by men.

Performance Programme / Traditional

Azerbaijan • Kyrgyzstan • Kazakhstan • Mongolia • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Uzbekistan

# THE BADAKHSHAN ENSEMBLE

Traditions of Badakhshan



© Sebastian Schutyser / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Aqnazar Alovatov  
vocal, rubab  
Sahiba Davlatshaeva  
vocal and dance  
Shodikhon Mabatkulov  
daf  
Olucha Mualibshoev  
vocal, tanbur  
Mukhtor Muborakkadamov  
setar  
Gulomsho Safarov  
tanbur

In the southeast of Tajikistan, where the majestic Pamir Mountains reach heights only slightly lower than those of the Himalayas, local traditions of devotional song, mystical music, and dance have flourished among mountain-dwelling Pamiri people, many of whom are Shia Isma'ili Muslims. Artists of the Ensemble present their cultural practices that, together with Badakhshan's rugged geography, nourished the preservation of traditional culture.

Concert programme showcases devotional songs, mystical music, and dance traditions of the Pamir.

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# MUSIC OF SHASHMAQOM

Academy of Maqom



© Sebastian Schutyser / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Abduvali Abdurashidov  
Artistic Director and sato

Jamshed Ergashev  
vocal, doyra

Sirojiddin Juraev  
dutar

Kamoloddin Khamdamov  
vocal, tanbur

Ozoda Ashurova  
vocal

Nasiba Omonboeva  
vocal

Khurshed Ibrohimov  
vocal

The programme celebrates the repertory of Central Asian classical music known as Shashmaqom (“six maqoms”), where instrumental pieces, lyrical song, poetry, and dance are bound together in an artistic conception of refinement and profound beauty. The roots of Shashmaqom are linked with Samarkand and Bukhara where performers and audiences included Tajiks, Uzbeks, and Bukharan Jews. The lyrical expressiveness of the maqom conveys the sublime beauty and allegorical power of poetry by Hafez, Jamī, Nawâ’ī, Amiri, Bedil and Mashrab. Composed in the genres of ghazal, mukhammas, and rubai, the texts are redolent with symbols drawn from Sufism--the figure of the beloved, alluding to the invisible presence of the divine.

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# ENSEMBLE TENGIR-TOO

Nomadic Music of Kyrgyzstan



© Kate Vincent / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Nurlanbek Nyshanov  
artistic director, choir, chopo choir, jaw harps  
*With Ensemble Tengir-Too*

**Nomadic cultures have produced virtuosic instrumental repertoires, and these are the specialty of Tengir-Too, a Kyrgyz collective whose name means “Celestial Mountains” and refers to the mountain range – better known by its Chinese name, Tien Shan – that towers over the high alpine passes linking Kyrgyzstan and China. Tengir-Too seamlessly combines tradition and innovation in their laconic arrangements of Kyrgyz melodies for a variety of small ensembles. Performance programme features young musicians from this rising generation of Kyrgyz performers.**

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# THE ART OF THE AFGHAN RUBAB



© Sebastian Schutyser / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Homayun Sakhi  
rubab

Seiar Hashimi  
tabla

Abbos Kosimov  
doyra and qayraq

**Afghan rubab virtuoso Homayun Sakhi teams up with percussionists Seiar Hashimi on tabla and Abbas Kosimov on doyra (Central Asian frame drum) for a performance devoted to the traditional Kabuli style of Indian raga performance of which Homayun Sakhi is arguably the greatest living exponent. Throughout this ebullient performance, Hashimi and Kosimov will render “answers” to Sakhi’s “questions” by transferring the rhythmic patterns of his rubab to their respective drums. In the fiery drut section of raga, Sakhi will be part musician and part magician, extracting from his rubab a swirl of melodic colors and rhythms, providing ample evidence that in the hands of a master, the resources of tradition are all but inexhaustible.**



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## TRIO DA KALI

Tradition-inspired Contemporary Malian Griot Music



© Sebastian Schutyser / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Lassana Diabaté  
22-key balafon  
Hawa Kassé Mady Diabaté  
vocal  
Mamadou Kouyaté  
bass ngoni

**Trio Da Kali unites three outstanding musicians from the Mande culture of Mali, who come from a long line of distinguished griots (specialist hereditary musical artisans). Long-term collaborators, the artists come together as a trio with the aim of bringing to the forefront neglected repertoires and performance styles of the griots and celebrating the African continent's finest, most subtle, and sublime music - bringing a fresh, contemporary twist to their musical art, breathing new life back into this ancient music.**

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# SORIANA

Contemporary music from the Orient



© Xurxo - Adrian Entenza / Cully Jazz Festival 2014

Basel Rajoub  
artistic direction, saxophones, duclar,  
Kenan Adnawi  
oud  
Andrea Piccioni  
percussion  
Feras Charestan  
qanun

**Soriana translates as "Our Syria." This adventurous programme brings together eminent performer-composer-improvisers from Syria and the West who create contemporary music inspired by the rich cultural heritage of the Orient. Performed on Middle Eastern and Western instruments, the programme showcases the rising generation of cosmopolitan Arab musicians. It celebrates the artists' cultural heritage, paying homage to the land that gave them the gift of musical knowledge carried throughout many journeys as it soothes wounds and inspires creation, envelopes in warmth and stability, feeding the imagination as well as the soul.**





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## NEW SOUNDS FROM ARAB LANDS



© Carlos Casas / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Kinan Azmeh  
clarinet  
Basel Rajoub  
saxophone  
Jasser Haj Youssef  
violin, viola d'amore  
Feras Charestan  
qanun  
Various artists  
percussion

**This adventurous programme brings together eminent performer-composer-improvisers from Syria, Tunisia and Lebanon, who create new music inspired by the rich cultural heritage of the Arab lands. Performing on Middle Eastern and Western instruments, they exemplify the talent, achievement, and breadth of a rising generation of cosmopolitan Arab musicians. The programme combines myriad melodic modes and microtonal subtleties of Arabic music, jazz and classical music, generating a sublime mix of spontaneity and control rooted in a thousand-year-old tradition of improvisation.**

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# FARGANA QASIMOVA ENSEMBLE

Spiritual Sounds of Azerbaijan



© Sebastian Schüttyser / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Fargana Qasimova  
vocal, daf

Rauf Islamov  
kamanche

Zaki Valiyev  
tar

Rafael Asgarov  
balaban, clarinet

Javidan Nabiyev  
naghara

For Fargana Qasimova, the passionate lyrics of Azerbaijani mugham and spirited songs of the bardic ashiq tradition provided the soundscape of her childhood. Now a consummate vocalist in her own right, Fargana has developed her own distinctive style that builds on the formidable artistic legacy bequeathed to her by her father, the renowned musician Alim Qasimov. Accompanied by the same quartet of young musicians as her father, Fargana offers a brilliant example of tradition-based music performed with a contemporary sensibility.

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# WU MAN, SANUBAR TURSUN

and Master Musicians from the Silk Route



© Feng Li / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Wu Man  
pipa  
Sanubar Tursun  
vocal, dutar  
Hesenjan Tursun  
satar, ghijek  
Mijit Yunus  
vocal, dutar

“What would it sound like if I played Uyghur classical muqam and Ili folk songs on my pipa?” This notion had long fascinated pipa virtuoso Wu Man. “I often imagined what it would be like if the pipa were mixed with instruments such as satar, tambur, and dutar.” This concert programme represents a true musical encounter, bringing together artists from around north and west of China’s Great Wall, encompassing vast expanses of desert, mountains, and grasslands. Wu Man joins forces with the magnificent Sanubar Tursun and outstanding instrumentalists to perform a body of music comprised of newly arranged traditional songs, improvisations and instrumental pieces, producing contemporary sounds of the historically kindred musical worlds.

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# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BABUR

Music from the Land of the Mughals



© Sebastian Schutyser, Jay Blakesberg / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Homayun Sakhi  
afghan rubab

Rahul Sharma  
santur

Sirojiddin Juraev  
dutar, tanbur

Mukhtor Muborakqadomov  
setar

Various artists  
tabla, zerbaghali

**This programme features a musical collaboration that represents a modern-day encore of the remarkable artistic synthesis cultivated by the emperors who ruled the Mughal Dynasty, founded at the beginning of the 16th century by Babur. Inspired by visual images and literary descriptions of exuberant music-making in the Mughal courts, the programme unites musicians from Afghanistan, India, and Tajikistan, merging their talents, traditions, and musical instruments to create new sounds. Developed in 2009 by the Aga Khan Music Initiative for a CD entitled *In the Footsteps of Babur: Musical Encounters from the Lands of the Mughals*.**



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# KRONOS QUARTET & HOMAYUN SAKHI TRIO



© Rachel Bleckman / Aga Khan Music Initiative

David Harrington  
violin

John Sherba  
violin

Hank Dutt  
viola

Sunny Yang  
cello

Homayun Sakhi  
rubab

Seiar Hashimi  
tabla

Abbos Kosimov  
doyra and qayraq

In 2008, the Aga Khan Music Initiative and the San Francisco-based Kronos Quartet inaugurated a pioneering musical collaboration that brings the quartet together with leading musicians from AKMI countries to compose, arrange, and perform new music rooted in regional traditions. The first AKMI-Kronos collaboration features Homayoun Sakhi's "Rangin Kaman" ("Rainbow" in Persian), a composition for Afghan rubab, tabla, frame drum and string quartet. The string quartet parts, which Sakhi composed on a Casio synthesizer, were arranged for Kronos by Stephen Prutsman, a long-time Kronos collaborator.



# KRONOS QUARTET & ALIM QASIMOV ENSEMBLE



© Sebastian Schutyser / Aga Khan Music Initiative

David Harrington  
violin

John Sherba  
violin

Hank Dutt  
viola

Sunny Yang  
cello

Alim Qasimov  
vocal, daf

Fargana Qasimova  
vocal, daf

Rauf Islamov  
kamancha

Zaki Valiyev  
tar

Rafael Asgarov  
balaban

Javidan Nabiyev  
naghara

In 2008, the Aga Khan Music Initiative and the San Francisco-based Kronos Quartet inaugurated a pioneering musical collaboration that brings the quartet together with leading musicians from AKMI countries to compose, arrange, and perform new music rooted in regional traditions. The second AKMI-Kronos collaboration features works for the Quartet and the Alim Qasimov Ensemble and presents Azerbaijani songs performed by the Quartet with Alim and Fargana Qasimov and instrumentalists, who play *tar*, *kamancha*, *balaban*, and *naghara*. Songs were arranged first by Alim Qasimov and subsequently by American performer-composer-arranger Jacob Garchik, who created the string quartet parts.



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# KRONOS QUARTET & TRIO DA KALI



© Lenny Gonzalez

David Harrington  
violin  
John Sherba  
violin  
Hank Dutt  
viola  
Sunny Yang  
cello  
Lassana Diabaté  
22-key balafon  
Hawa Kassé Mady Diabaté  
vocal  
Mamadou Kouyaté  
bass ngoni

The Aga Khan Music Initiative and the San Francisco-based Kronos Quartet have inaugurated a pioneering musical collaboration that brings the quartet together with leading musicians from the AKMI countries to compose, arrange, and perform new music rooted in regional traditions. The third AKMI-Kronos collaboration, inaugurated in 2014, features arrangements by Lassana Diabaté and Jacob Garchik for Kronos Quartet and Trio Da Kali. All new works are commissioned for the Kronos Quartet and Trio Da Kali by the Aga Khan Music Initiative, a programme of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, and the Kronos Performing Arts Association.



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# WU MAN AND FRIENDS

Musical Encounters on Central Asian Frontiers



© Sebastian Schutyser / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Wu Man  
pipa  
Abduvali Abdurashidov  
sato (bowed tanbur)  
Sirojiddin Juraev  
dutar, tanbur  
*With guest artists*

Two millennia ago, Inner Asian nomads – the “northern barbarians” of ancient Chinese texts – brought a short-necked pear-shaped lute from Central Asia to the frontiers of China. A millennium later, musicians from Persia and Central Asia travelled the Silk Road to the courts of the Tang emperors to create a cosmopolitan musical culture in the heart of China. In this new programme, pipa virtuoso Wu Man joins Tajik musicians Abduvali Abdurashidov and Sirojiddin Juraev to explore and revitalize the long dormant connections between Chinese and Central Asian music, performing a mixture of instrumental pieces featuring pipa, dutar, tanbur, and sato (bowed tanbur).





# INVISIBLE FACE OF THE BELOVED



© Michel Wernimont / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Ozoda Ashurova  
vocal  
Abduvali Abdurashidov  
tanbur, sato  
Sirojiddin Juraev  
tanbur, dutar  
Jasser Haj Youssef  
violin, viola d'amore  
Abbos Kosimov  
doira  
Pasha Hanjani  
ney  
Mohammad Motamedi  
vocal

**This concert programme brings together adventurous musicians from Tajikistan, Iran, and Tunisia who reassemble diverse expressions of a shared musical heritage in contemporary forms. Conceived and produced by the Aga Khan Music Initiative, the programme aims to strengthen links between artistic communities in Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. Based on Sufi-inspired classical music and songs, this concert programme features various combinations of vocal and instrumental music performed by duos, trios, and quartets as well as pieces by the full ensemble.**



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# SOUND: TRANSCENDING BORDERS

New Music from Iran and Syria



© Sebastian Schutyser / Aga Khan Music Initiative

Saeid Shanbehzadeh  
neyanban (Iranian bagpipe), neyjoti (flute),  
boogh horns, dance, vocal

Basel Rajoub  
saxophones, duclar

Naghib Shanbehzadeh  
percussion (tombak/zarb, darbuka)

**“Sound: the Encounter” brings together adventurous musicians from Iran and Syria who seek to reassemble diverse expressions of a shared musical heritage in contemporary forms. The result is a collection of newly-developed and arranged musical pieces inspired by the millennium-old musical legacy of the ancient Silk Road that are rooted in classical and folk traditional musical forms and re-imagined within a new artistic frame.**







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