

Aga Khan Museum Breaks the Mould with its Innovative Winter 2018 Performing Arts Season

World and North American premieres feature Yemeni, Sardinian, and Egyptian artists

Toronto, November 27, 2017 — The Aga Khan Museum is proud to announce an ambitious winter 2018 performing arts season from January 12 to April 29, filled with some of the most ground-breaking and thought-provoking performers working today. Their unique musical status comes from the distinct ways in which they combine a deep love for their artistic traditions with fearless innovation.

“This season you’ll experience the work of artists who collaborate across cultures and genres, blending contemporary, indie, electronic, and traditional soundscapes. They break every mould along the way, some in the face of acute political and societal upheaval,” says Amirali Alibhai, Head of Performing Arts at the Aga Khan Museum.”

Highlights of the Winter 2018 performing arts season include:

- **Azhar Usman:** “America’s funniest Muslim” (CNN) challenges racial and cultural stereotypes — and leverages the power of curiosity and intellect to decipher societal issues. (January 12 and 13)
- **Yemen Blues:** An explosive combination of Yemeni song and poetry, Jewish music, and West African groove makes this band one of the most exciting to come out of Israel in recent years. Presented in partnership with Ashkenaz and the Consulate of Israel. (January 18)
- **Paolo Angeli:** The master guitarist blends styles using his own creation, an 18-string hybrid of guitar, drums, and violoncello, performing songs rooted in Sardinian tradition. Special guest Dr. Draw reinvents the violin with his blend of electronics and dance music. Presented in partnership with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura. (February 1)
- **Kaia Kater and Waleed Kush African Jazz Ensemble:** In celebration of Black History Month, African-Canadian artists present spellbinding music that journeys from Nubia and West Africa via Harlem, Appalachia, New Orleans, and Mississauga. (February 24)
- **Land of Kush:** Bridging Montreal and Cairo, this large ensemble features the cutting-edge Cairene performers Maurice Loca and Nada El Shazly and is led by composer Sam Shalabi. Land of Kush creates exploratory jazz-meets-traditional music described as “alive in ferocious form.” A co-presentation with the Music Gallery. (March 24)

The **Aga Khan Museum** in Toronto, Canada, has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Museum’s mission is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the contribution that Muslim civilizations have made to world heritage while often reflecting, through both its permanent and temporary exhibitions, how cultures connect with one another. Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki, the Museum shares a 6.8-hectare site with Toronto’s Ismaili Centre, which was designed by architect Charles Correa. The surrounding landscaped park was designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic.

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