

## Aga Khan Museum Celebrates Canada's Many Cultures Through Musical "Conversations" during Fall 2017 Performing Arts Season

North American and world premiere performances feature Indigenous, Afghan, and Arabic artists

**Toronto, August 14, 2017** — The Aga Khan Museum is delighted to announce a diverse fall performing arts season with musical "conversations" that explore and celebrate the connections among Canada's many cultures while also showcasing global talent. This exciting season of music and dance includes spectacular world premiere and North American premiere performances featuring, among others, Indigenous, Arabic, Malian, and Afghan artists, and is presented in two series: Conversation Nation and Global Conversations.

Conversation Nation, linked thematically to the exhibition ***HERE: Locating Contemporary Canadian Artists***, offers a chance to experience innovative and socially relevant music and dance performances by renowned Canadian artists. Global Conversations features vibrant performances by artists from Syria, Mali, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, and Canada.

"This season, local and international talent collaborate across genres, cultures, nationalities, and media," says **Amirali Alibhai**, Head of Performing Arts. "Through these dynamic performances, we want to present and inspire conversations about the fascinating connections between musical traditions and contemporary expressions."

Highlights of the 2017 fall performing arts season include:

### Conversation Nation

- *Incantations*: In this world premiere, headlined by Métis performer Moe Clark, Inuit and Persian artists collaborate in a multi-layered performance (Sept. 16)
- *Haram with Gordon Grdina*: Grdina, a genre-defying artist who has played with a who's who of musicians, leads this culture-mashing, Vancouver-based band in a blend of traditional Arabic music with jazz and electronic soundscapes (Nov. 18)

### Global Conversations

- *Kobane*: Nishtiman (Kurdish for "homeland") brings together Kurdish musicians from Iran, Iraq, and Turkey for a rousing tribute to the Syrian city of Kobane (Sept. 29)
- *Music of Mali*: Dubbed a "Malian griot supergroup" by the U.K.'s *Guardian* newspaper, Trio Da Kali present the rich West African storytelling tradition of griot through words and music (Oct. 14)

[Click here](#) for the full fall 2017 performing arts season lineup.

In addition, on September 30, the Aga Khan Museum, Ismaili Centre, Toronto, and Aga Khan Park return to Nuit Blanche Toronto with a night of transcendent performances from a wide range of contemporary and traditional performances, and with the Canadian premiere of a monumental, specially commissioned installation by acclaimed artist Shahzia Sikander. Later this fall, the Aga Khan Museum once again celebrates contemporary and classical flamenco with its third annual Duende Flamenco Festival, running October 20 to 22.

“Our fall 2017 performing arts season is unprecedented in its scope, and perfect for a city as multicultural as Toronto,” says Aga Khan Museum Director and CEO Henry Kim. “As with *HERE*, our first Canadian contemporary art exhibition, the Conversation Nation series reflects the mission of the Museum, namely, advancing the values of pluralism by connecting cultures through the universally accessible language of art. We are very proud to be representing, in our programming, the incredible diversity of what it means to be Canadian.”

**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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