

HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE RAHIM AGA KHAN V

«I am honoured to carry forward a vision deeply rooted in my father's belief in the power of music to bridge cultures and uplift the human spirit. The Aga Khan Music Awards reflect values that lie at the heart of the Aga Khan Development Network: pluralism, intercultural dialogue, and the spiritual connection that communities around the world find in music. In many of the regions we serve, music is an integral part of daily life, woven into the rhythms of prayer, celebration, memory and identity. We continue to support artists and traditions that speak not only to heritage, but also to hope.»



Magali Cohen

His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan V is the 50th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, and the Chair of the Aga Khan Development Network. He is the eldest son of His Late Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan and succeeded his father in accordance with historical Shia Imami Ismaili tradition on 4 February 2025.

His Highness worked closely with his late father for over three decades, serving on the boards of many agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network. He has been particularly concerned with AKDN's drive to protect the environment and mitigate the effects of climate change. He has also given sustained attention to the work of AKDN and the Ismaili community institutions in addressing the needs of those living in the greatest poverty and supporting the improvement of their livelihoods through education, training and enterprise.

His Highness meets regularly with leaders of government, international organisations, and civil society to strengthen their relations with the Ismaili Imamat and to advance AKDN's efforts to improve the lives of marginalised and vulnerable communities.

PRINCE AMYN AGA KHAN

«Music brings a kind of international understanding that goes beyond words and underlines the fact that we all have the same emotions. Sharing those emotions is something that binds us.»



Prince Amyn Aga Khan, younger brother of His Late Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan IV. has realised his lifelong passion for music and art through service on prize juries, museum committees, and the boards of major festivals, funds, and foundations. He played an active role in the creation of the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, and in building its collections. A collector himself, he regularly lends works to major French and international museums. He served on the acquisitions committee of the Louvre Museum and continues to serve on the board of the Friends of the Louvre. Since 1997, he has been a trustee of the World Monuments Fund and a member of its international advisory board. He is also chairman of the board of World Monuments Fund – France, launched in 2023, Prince Amyn has provided guidance to the Aga Khan Music Programme since its inception and, together with his brother, was instrumental in the creation of the Aga Khan Music Awards. He studied piano at the New England Conservatory of Music while earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard. Prince Amyn was appointed an Officer of France's Legion of Honour in July 2025.

PRINCE ALY MUHAMMAD AGA KHAN

«Music is inherently collaborative. The act of creating, performing, and enjoying music brings together ideas – and the people and cultures behind them. The Music Awards celebrate and invest in this power of music to bridge cultures and serve as a catalyst for social development.»



[©]Ahmed Charania

Prince Alv Muhammad Aga Khan is the youngest child of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, and brother of the current Aga Khan, His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan V. Prince Alv earned a B.A. from Harvard University, where he majored in History and Government. In 2024. he joined the head office of the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) in Geneva, where he focuses on catalysing entrepreneurship, employability, and skills in emerging sectors like the digital and green economies. He is closely involved with the Foundation's economic initiatives and its deepening work with its sister agency, the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED), a private sector investment agency. Prince Alv is also a filmmaker with a deep passion for the arts. He serves on the Advisory Council of the Aga Khan Music Programme and Music Awards.

AGA KHAN MUSIC AWARDS

The Aga Khan Music Awards were established in 2018 by His Late Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan IV and his brother, Prince Amyn Aga Khan. They honour individuals, groups, and institutions whose work sustains and reimagines living musical heritage shaped by Islam while promoting spiritual insight, community vitality, and cultural resilience. In addition to a share of the prize fund, award recipients benefit from professional development opportunities including new commissions, recording projects, management support, and assistance for educational and preservation initiatives. The Music Awards are overseen by an Advisory Council co-chaired by His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan V and his uncle, Prince Amyn Aga Khan, and are open to individuals, ensembles and organisations without regard to gender, geography, religion or nationality. Nominations for the Music Awards are submitted to the Awards Secretariat by external nominators who are international leaders in music creation and performance, production and curation, education and scholarship. A Master lury appointed by the co-chairs of the Advisory Council on the recommendation of the Awards Secretariat reviews nominees and selects the laureates of each awards cycle.

AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CUITURF

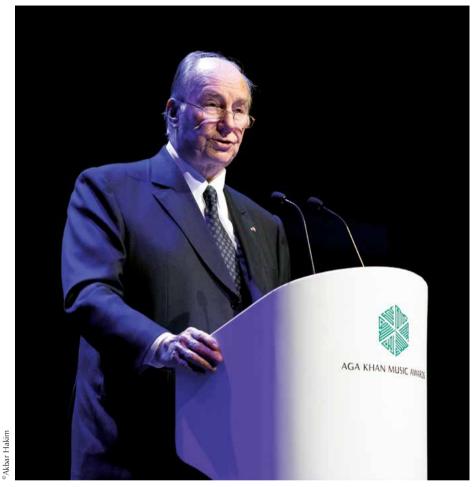
Both the Aga Khan Music Awards and the Aga Khan Music Programme are programmes of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the cultural agency of the Aga Khan Development Network. The Aga Khan Trust for Culture was founded in 1988 with a mission to leverage the transformative power of culture to improve the socioeconomic conditions of Muslim populations. In so doing, it demonstrates the valuable role that different forms of cultural expression can play in development and supports a more informed understanding of the diverse cultures of the Muslim world.

AGA KHAN MUSIC PROGRAMME

Founded in 2000, the Aga Khan Music Programme (AKMP) validates, supports, and strengthens the critical role of music and musicians in societies shaped by Islam. Working with artistic communities across the Midde East and North Africa, Europe, Central Asia, South Asia, and West Africa, the AKMP celebrates music as a vital expression of human spirituality and a powerful means of fostering tolerance, curiosity, and pluralism. While honouring and sustaining traditional forms of music teaching and performance, the AKMP also champions contemporary projects by artists whose creations are inspired but not constrained by tradition. Through a global network of arts presenters and educational institutions, the Music Programme brings its projects and performances to audiences worldwide.

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NFTWORK

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) uses a multifaceted approach to improve the quality of life for the most marginalised communities in selected regions of the world, including South and Central Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. In partnership with governments, businesses and civil society organisations, the Network embeds physical and social infrastructure, health and education services, business and finance facilities, habitat and environmental planning, and cultural preservation and revitalisation within the communities it serves. Pluralism – the embrace of difference – is central to AKDN's work. Guided by the belief that in an ever-shrinking, ever more diverse world, a genuine sense of pluralism is the indispensable foundation for human peace and progress, the Network aims to improve living conditions and opportunities for people regardless of their faith, race, ethnicity, or gender.



His Highness the Aga Khan IV addresses the audience at the inaugural Aga Khan Music Awards, held at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal, 2019 — a historic moment honouring music's role in connecting cultures and generations.

HIS LATE HIGHNESS PRINCE KARIM AGA KHAN IV

«Music can be a strong cultural anchor, deepening a sense of community, identity and heritage, while simultaneously reaching out in powerful ways to people of different backgrounds.»

FOUNDING VISION OF HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE KARIM AGA KHAN IV

Elevating the human spirit and human societies through the cultivation of art, architecture, music, and literature was a fundamental aim as well as an ardent passion of His Late Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan IV. Music, in particular, delighted him. As he noted in his address at the inaugural Aga Khan Music Awards in 2019, 'The cultural heritage of Islam has long embraced musical language as an elemental expression of human spirituality'. A visit to the Ismaili community in Tajikistan in 1995 had led His Highness Aga Khan IV to reflect on 'the ways in which music can be a strong cultural anchor, deepening a sense of community, identity and heritage, while simultaneously reaching out in powerful ways to people of different backgrounds'.

To transform these thoughts into action, His Highness Aga Khan IV established the Aga Khan Music Programme (AKMP). Initial activities of the AKMP included collaborating with the USA's Smithsonian Institution to produce the 2002 Smithsonian Folklife Festival *The Silk Road: Connecting Cultures, Creating Trust*, and with the Silk Road Project founded by renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

The establishment of the Aga Khan Music Awards, in 2018, which recognises high achievement in music related to Muslim heritage, expanded the reach of the AKMP to a truly global scale.



Winners and finalists of the inaugural Aga Khan Music Awards proudly hold their prize certificates on stage at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal, 2019. Joining them are the Awards' Co-Chairs and Founders, His Highness the Aga Khan IV and Prince Amyn Aga Khan, along with the President of Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa — a moment of shared celebration for artists, leaders, and nations.



His Late Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan IV's first visit to Tajikistan, where he was welcomed with local music and dance. Khorog, Tajikistan, 1995.



His Highness Aga Khan IV at the first White House Conference on Culture and Diplomacy, Washington, D.C., 2000. With fellow panelists (L to R) American Poet Laureate Rita Dove, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Italian Minister of Culture Giovanna Melandri, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, U.S. President Bill Clinton, Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka, and President of the Doris Duke Foundation, Joan Spero.



His Highness Aga Khan IV with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell (r) and designer-scenographer Rajeev Sethi (l) at the opening of the 2002 Smithsonian Folklife Festival The Silk Road: Connecting Cultures, Creating Trust, in Washington, D.C.



A MILESTONE CELEBRATION OF MUSIC FROM THE WORLD OF ISLAM

A historic four-day programme on London's iconic stages, in partnership with the EFG London Jazz Festival

The Aga Khan Music Awards 2025 edition is presented in collaboration with the EFG London Jazz Festival across the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, and in the Ismaili Centre London from 20–23 November.

Over four days, London audiences will experience a musical journey spanning West Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean. The festival-style programme features musical conversations between centuries-old traditions and contemporary innovators, showcasing devotional *qawwali* and *khyal*; Gnawa music from Morocco; Turkish and Greek classical traditions; new sounds from the Middle East; and bold fusions with jazz and orchestral music.

Music Awards programming reflects the Awards' mission to celebrate music that stands at the heart of human experience as a living force of creative imagination and cross-cultural dialogue. In doing so, it underscores London's role as a crossroads for global culture.



PROGRAMME

London, UK 20-23 November 2025

20	Tribute to Ustad Zakir Hussain Triveni Quartet
21	Opening Night: Celebration of Music from the Great East Aga Khan Master Musicians & Friends
22	Aga Khan Music Programme Freestage
	Aga Khan Music Awards Ceremony 2025
23	Soumik Datta "Travellers" UK Premiere
	Oumou Sangaré & AKMA winners

with the BBC Concert Orchestra

«Music stands at the heart of human experience, inseparable from our stories and essential to the strength and cohesion of our communities. Through music, our stories breathe and our shared humanity endures. The Aga Khan Music Awards celebrate this transformative power of music — not only as an art form, but also as a means of fostering dialogue and understanding across cultures.»

Fairouz Nishanova

Director, Aga Khan Music Programme and Aga Khan Music Awards

LAUREATES OF THE AGA KHAN MUSIC AWARDS 2025



MARIAM BAGAYOKO Mali

"For passionate, lifelong devotion to elevating and transmitting the musical heritage of Mali, particularly among women and girls, through singing and dancing that energises, enchants, and opens the hearts of people across the world."

JURY CITATION

Mariam Bagayoko is an esteemed singer, dancer, and instrumentalist known as the 'Nightingale of Bélédougou', a region of the precolonial Bambara Empire, now in central Mali. It was there that Bagayoko grew up, singing simple tunes while collecting shea nuts and creating makeshift instruments for women working in the fields. Today, Bagayoko is well-known for her powerful vocal performances in the Bambara singing tradition, her skillful playing of the yabara, a large gourd shaker, and the unique way she dances atop the balafon, a xylophone with wooden bars and gourd resonators. She is considered a master of the n'goussounbala, a large balafon with especially resonant gourds specific to the Bélédougou region. Bagayoko has played a crucial role in the cultural preservation of Malian music and choreography. Her Tiébilentiè project in Diakaman focuses on traditional acrobats and healers who practice an art requiring deep self-mastery and strict internal discipline, often accompanied by the n'qoussounbala. She has also mentored women and Malian youth in traditional music, ensuring the transmission of Malian heritage to future generations.



©Cesar Avedikian

DERYA TÜRKAN

Türkiye

"For elevating Turkish classical and folk music on the global stage through peerless mastery of the Turkish kemençe and adventurous cross-cultural collaborations." JURY CITATION

Derya Türkan is a classical *kemence* player, composer, and teacher. Born in Istanbul, he received his formal training at Istanbul Technical University's Turkish Music Conservatory, where he studied for ten years under renowned kemence player Ihsan Özgen. He has held long-term positions with the State Ensemble for Classical Turkish Music at the Ministry of Culture, TRT (Turkish Radio Television) Istanbul Radio, and the Kudsi Erguner group. Blending elements of magam music, jazz, and other global traditions, Türkan has collaborated with musicians from wide-ranging cultural backgrounds, including Jordi Savall, Renaud-Garcia Fons, and Djivan Gasparyan. Türkan has also worked on several Turkish film scores, serving as the music director for Cem Yılmaz's film Yahşi Batı. In 2012, he performed music for the Academy-Award-winning film Argo, which is primarily set in Tehran. Türkan is also an educator, teaching kemence to musicians worldwide. He has been teaching at Ross Daly's Labyrinth Musical Workshop, an educational institution of world music in Crete, since 2004.



[©]Lina Khalid

FARAH KADDOUR Lebanon

"For expanding the expressive potential of the buzuq and serving the humanitarian needs of children in refugee camps through service to Action for Hope." JURY CITATION

Farah Kaddour is a renowned performer on the buzug, a longnecked fretted lute with ancient roots in the Middle East. She is also a composer and music scholar who integrates her artistic practice into music-related projects at Action for Hope, a foundation formed in 2015 to provide cultural development and relief for communities displaced by war or extreme poverty. She is a member of SANAM, a contemporary Arabic music ensemble, and is featured on their experimental debut album Avkathani Malakon (2023). With fellow Lebanese musicians Samah Boulmona and Ali Hout, she co-founded TILT, an ensemble that aims to bring a fresh approach to Arabic music through original compositions. Kaddour released her own debut solo album, *Badā*, in 2024, which includes improvisations, original compositions and reimaginings of traditional works. As one of the most prominent buzug players in the Arabic-speaking world, Kaddour hopes to elevate women musicians and composers through her work.



HAMID EL KASRI

Morocco

"For exceptional artistry as a master of Gnawa music, lifelong dedication to preserving and renewing Morocco's musical heritage, and inspiring work to foster dialogue and mutual respect across cultures."

JURY CITATION

Hamid El Kasri is a singer and *guembri* player and a *maâlem* (master musician) in the Gnawa tradition, which fuses elements of Islamic and sub-Saharan indigenous spiritual practices. Though Gnawa was not in his immediate family, he grew up immersed in the culture of Gnawa, and credits his initial inspiration for pursuing music to his grandmother's husband, who was a formerly enslaved person from Sudan. El Kasri is Vice President of the Yerma Gnaoua Association as well as a long-time pillar of the Essaouira Gnaoua and World Music Festival. Beyond his devotion to Gnawa music, he has engaged in adventurous collaborations with artists such as Austrian pianist Joe Zawinul and Brooklyn-based jazz fusion group Snarky Puppy. He has also collaborated with British jazz fusion musician Jacob Collier, performing with him at the BBC Proms and contributing to his album *Djesse* Vol. 1.

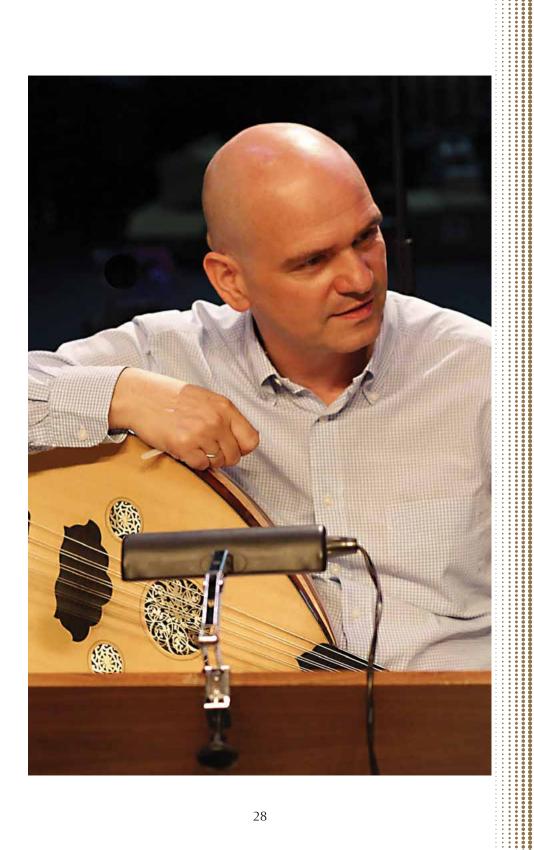


®Randa Shaath

KAMILYA JUBRAN Palestine/France

"For fearless experimentalism in seeking new creative directions in Arabic music across a range of contemporary styles and idioms while remaining true to your Palestinian origins." JURY CITATION

Kamilya Jubran is an oud and *ganun* player, vocalist, and composer. She was introduced to Arabic classical music growing up in Al Rameh, a village in Galilee. She later moved to Jerusalem to study at Hebrew University, where she became involved with the Palestinian band Sabreen, serving as its lead vocalist and ganun player for the next two decades. Since 2002, Jubran has pursued a solo career in Europe, drawing on her roots in Arabic music to inform her adventurous innovations in a range of contemporary musical styles and genres. Jubran has engaged in many crosscultural collaborations, recording original electronic music with Swiss composer Werner Hassler and an homage to Egyptian musician Sayyed Darwish with French jazz bassist Sarah Murcia. As artistic director of Zamkana, a non-profit organisation, she supports emerging artists and champions freedom of expression. Jubran is the founder of Sodassi Projects, a music residency that offers masterclasses in composing and arranging for young Arab artists, especially young women.



KYRIAKOS KALAITZIDIS

Greece

"For masterfully illuminating the Levant's shared musical heritage through distinguished arts research, performance, composition, and advocacy."

JURY CITATION

Kyriakos Kalaitzidis is an oud player, composer, and scholar whose work illuminates connections between Islamic and Euro-Mediterranean traditions, facilitating a deeper understanding of their shared musical heritage. Kalaitzidis is the artistic director and co-founder of En Chordais, an ensemble formed in 1993 to research and perform music from the Levant. His work with En Chordais is enriched by scholarship focusing on post-Byzantine music manuscripts, which offer unique insight into the origins of Oriental secular music. Since 2020, Kalaitzidis has taught at the University of Ioannina, in Greece. As Artistic Director of the MediMuses project, funded by the Euromed Heritage program, Kalaitzidis promotes artistic, educational, and research-related activities across thirteen countries in the Mediterranean and Europe.



[®]Bahrain Cultural Authority

QALALI Bahrain

"For sustaining the cultural memory of Bahrain's pearl divers and transmitting the legacy of Bahrain's maritime culture to future generations through the authentic performance of Al Fijri."

JURY CITATION

Established over a century ago, Qalali is one of Bahrain's oldest folk bands. The ensemble's work focuses on the performance and preservation of seafaring musical traditions native to Qalali Village on Muharrag Island, the northernmost island of the Bahrain archipelago, in the Persian Gulf. Historically, its residents — mostly pearl divers and fishermen — would congregate to perform song and dance centred around maritime work. Some of these songs were performed on pearl boats to help pearl divers endure harsh and dangerous working conditions; others were sung to accompany repair work on the boats between pearl hunting expeditions or upon return to land. Qalali is particularly well-known for its performances of sawt, a type of popular music, and fijri, a traditional genre of pearl diver music inscribed by UNESCO in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2021. Although traditional pearl diving is no longer common in Bahrain, Qalali preserves the cultural memory of its musical traditions in exuberant folklorised performances that authentically transmit the legacy of Bahrain's maritime culture to future generations.



®TED / Ryan Lash

SAHBA AMINIKIA Iran/USA

"For visionary creativity in founding and guiding the Flying Carpet Festival, which draws on the transformative power of art and music to enrich the lives of children in conflict zones."

JURY CITATION

Sahba Aminikia is a composer and social innovator who founded and directs the Flying Carpet Festival, a multi-disciplinary traveling arts festival serving Syrian, Turkish and Kurdish children displaced by war and conflict. Founded in 2018, the Flying Carpet Festival is based in Mardin, in southeastern Turkey, which has absorbed tens of thousands of the more than 3.7 million Syrians who fled to Turkey. Every year, the festival begins with a two-week residency in Mardin whose participants are musicians, dancers, circus artists and storytellers from around the world. The collective then travels and performs in cities and villages across southeastern Turkey. Designed as a collaborative experience shared between artists-inresidence. local artists and child artists, the festival has facilitated 68 live performances, 540 workshops, and 193 artist residencies since its inception. In the future, Aminikia hopes to bring Flying Carpet to new locations, extending its mission of using art and music as a catalyst for peace and positive change.



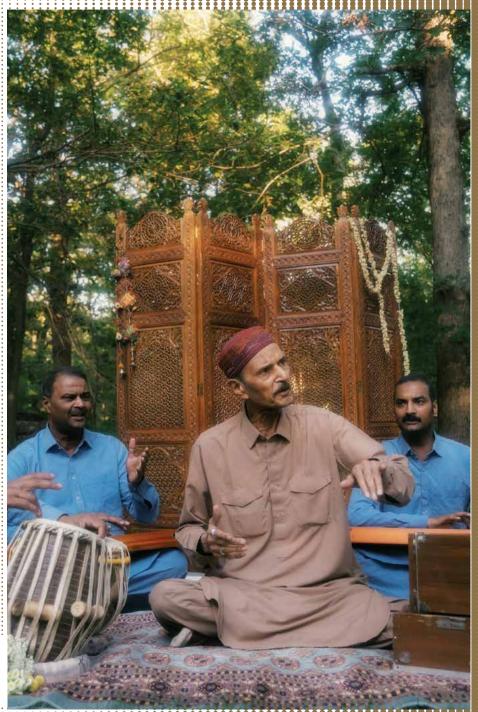
Ojoël Pickford

SENNY CAMARA Senegal

"For joyously elevating the spirit of the feminine in Senegalese music through your mastery of the kora and evocative songwriting."

JURY CITATION

Senny Camara is a kora (harp-lute) and guitar player, singer, composer, and sound engineer. Raised by a traditional healer grandmother, Camara fell in love with the kora at the age of seven but was discouraged from learning to play it since the *kora* has been traditionally the province of men. Instead, Camara played guitar and sang songs for healing ceremonies led by her grandmother. At the age of twenty-two, she was finally accepted by a teacher of kora after moving to M'bour, a city near Dakar, Senegal's capital. Later she studied at the Conservatoire in Dakar and the Conservatoire de St Denis, Paris, self-funding her education by supporting herself as a sound engineer. Camara continues to work on radio and TV programmes as a performer and social commentator, addressing gender equality, environmental issues, and other contemporary topics in her work. Singing in multiple regional languages and challenging the conventions of kora music, traditionally a male domain, Camara connects audiences across West Africa, its diaspora, and beyond.



Simrah Farrukh

USTAD NASEERUDDIN SAAMI Pakistan

"For energetic preservation and onward transmission of the spiritual and musical legacy of Amir Khusrau to multigenerational audiences at the highest level of musical excellence."

JURY CITATION

Ustad Naseeruddin Saami (b. 1946) is widely regarded as Pakistan's preeminent living classical vocalist. He is a torchbearer of the Delhi gharana (hereditary lineage) of Hindustani music, which traces its origins to the great poet, composer, musician and Sufi saint Amir Khusrau (1253-1325), who was instrumental in shaping a large part of the music and cultural history of South Asia. Ustad Naseeruddin Saami is a master of khyal, the refined art of improvisation within the constraints of raga (melody) and tala (rhythm) in Hindustani music. Together with his four sons, Rauf Saami, Urooj Saami, Ahmed Saami, and Azeem Saami, who perform as the Saami Brothers, Ustad Naseeruddin Saami headlines a renowned gawwali group that preserves the poetic, musical, and spiritual legacy of Amir Khusrau. Ustad Naseeruddin Saami's six-decade career earned him Pakistan's Tamgha-e- Imtiaz (Pride of Performance) award and the title "Ustad" (master). Saami's legacy extends through teaching and performances across Pakistan and Europe. Now in his late 70s, his work preserves an endangered musical cosmology that bridges spiritual and artistic traditions of the subcontinent.



•••JodhpurRIFF-Oijo

WARSI BROTHERS India

"For energetic preservation and onward transmission of the spiritual and musical legacy of Amir Khusrau to multigenerational audiences at the highest level of musical excellence."

IURY CITATION

Naseer and Nazeer Ahmed Khan Warsi, known as the Warsi Brothers, are among the finest living custodians of traditional gawwali in the Indian subcontinent. Direct descendants of Amir Khusrau's 14th-century lineage and trained by their grandfather Padma Shri Aziz Ahmad Khan Warsi, they represent the Delhi gharana's classical rigor and spiritual depth. As the last gawaal bachhey (children of gawwali), they prioritize preserving Khusrau's legacy over commercial gain. Though not blood relatives of the Saami family, the two lineages are connected through intermarriage over centuries, sharing a common spiritual and musical heritage that flows from Amir Khusrau. Based in Hyderabad, the Warsis' ancestors were court musicians for the Nizam of Hyderabad. Today, the family remains devoted custodians of shrine service and Khusrau's classical repertoire, while also bringing Khusrau's legacy to new audiences across India and abroad. Since the 1990s, they have performed at major festivals worldwide. With support, they aim to document their vast repertoire and mentor new generations in order to ensure that their 700-year-old spiritual tradition endures.



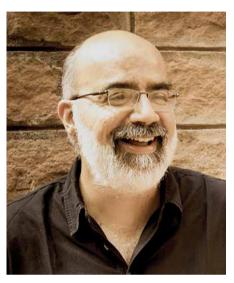
The seven members of the master jury are each internationally recognised experts in their respective fields of music, which include performance, composition, festival direction, scholarship, and education.

DAVID HARRINGTON



is founder, artistic director, and violinist of San Francisco's Kronos Quartet, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in the 2023-2024 season with Fifty for the Future, an open access collection of newly commissioned works. Through its commitment to commissioning music by living composers and collaborating with musicians representing myriad forms of traditional music around the world, Kronos has served as an inspiring model of bridge-building across musical languages, styles, and cultures. Kronos's seventyfour recordings and more than 1,100 commissioned works comprise a unique chronicle of American and global music over half a century. Kronos's work has been recognised by prestigious awards, including the Polar Music Prize, the Avery Fisher Prize, a Grammy, and Musicians of the Year from Musical America. In 2024. David Harrington was appointed as Kluge Chair in Modern Culture at the United States Library of Congress.

DIVYA BHATIA



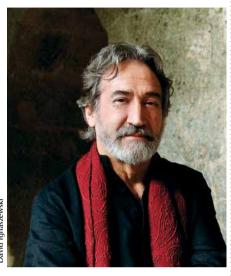
based in Mumbai, is an independent festival programmer and producer who regularly presents and produces international music and theatre projects worldwide. Educated in India, the United Kingdom and Canada, he is the longstanding Artistic Director and Co-Producer of Jodhpur RIFF (Rajasthan International Folk Festival). India's leading folk-jazz-roots music festival in Rajasthan. He also serves as Director of Music Museum Projects at Mehrangarh Museum Trust, Jodhpur; visiting faculty and India research partner for Applied Theatre at London's Royal Central School of Speech and Drama; and lead facilitator for Applied Theatre and Artistic Consultant at ComplexCity with Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA). Mumbai. He has been a Hindustani classical tabla player and a film actor, including in the 2009 film Paa and the 2015 film Talvar (released internationally as Guilty).

GHADA SHBEIR



is a critically acclaimed vocalist, scholar, composer and author. She holds a PhD in musical sciences as well as a diploma in Arabic singing from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon. She is also winner of the Best Arabic Song Competition, the BBC World Music Award for the Middle East and North Africa, and the International Prize for the performance of the classical Andalusian lyrical song form muwashshah. A teacher of Arabic singing and artistic director of the Oriental Arabic Choir at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Shbeir released numerous recording projects and books, among them Al Mouashahat, an academic curriculum for oriental singing students, and Al Magamat Al Arabiya, an academic curriculum for vocalists studying Arabic magam. As a researcher, Shbeir has studied Syriac liturgical music and notated over 700 Maronite and Catholic Syriac chants.

JORDI SAVALL



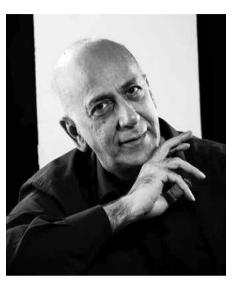
is a doven of the European early music and historically-informed performance movement. A peerless performer on the viola da gamba and other early European instruments. Maestro Savall founded. together with his late wife, Montserrat Figueras, the early music ensembles Hespèrion XXI (1974), La Capella Reial de Catalunya (1987) and Le Concert des Nations (1989). His concert programmes have illuminated historical links between Europe and the East, and frequently feature guest artists from Eastern musical traditions. In 2008 Savall was appointed European Union Ambassador for intercultural dialogue and was named Artist for Peace under the UNESCO Good Will Ambassadors programme. Savall has released more than 230 recordings that span medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical music, with a special focus on Hispanic and Mediterranean musical heritage. His many awards include the Léonie Sonning Music Prize and the Praetorius Music Prize.

OUMOU SANGARÉ



is a celebrated Malian singer-songwriter widely known as 'the Songbird of Wassoulou'. A school dropout who sang to help her mother support the family. she won an inter-kindergarten singing competition at the age of five and released her first album Moussolou ('Women') in 1990 with renowned Malian arranger Amadou Ba Guindo. Sangaré released seven further solo albums and performed at prestigious venues worldwide, including Melbourne Opera, the Opéra de la Monnaie and the Oslo World Music Festival. She has won numerous music awards, including a Grammy for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals in 2011 for Herbie Hancock's album *Imagine*. She was named a Goodwill Ambassador of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2003 and a Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture in 1998.

SASAN FATEMI



is a lecturer in ethnomusicology at University of Tehran with research interests in the traditional music of Iran, Central Asia and Azerbaijan. He received his PhD in ethnomusicology from the Université de Paris-X Nanterre and has published scholarly articles on Iranian music in English, French, and Farsi. He has also been active in performance research, contributing an original composition in the old Iranian style to a compilation album, titled Sarkhâne, of historically-informed new compositions. At University of Tehran, he has been a pioneer in bringing the academic discipline of ethnomusicology into the university's curriculum and building a cohort of faculty and students to develop it.

ZEYBA RAHMAN



is a philanthropy executive, global arts leader, and specialist in arts grantmaking and community engagement. For more than a decade, she served as director of the Doris Duke Foundation's Building Bridges Program, which supports projects that use the arts to strengthen mutual understanding between American Muslim communities and their neighbours. Prior to joining the Doris Duke Foundation, Ms. Rahman served in a variety of senior curatorial, consulting, and advisory roles for international music and arts festivals, museums, public arts programmes, and broadcasting networks, among them the Fez Festival of World Sacred Music, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Asia Society. She currently serves on the board of directors of Grantmakers in the Arts, which provides professional development resources for arts grantmakers. Zeyba Rahman served on the inaugural AKMA Steering Committee in 2019.



The Aga Khan Music Awards are overseen by an Advisory Council co-chaired by His Highness Rahim Aga Khan V and Prince Amyn Aga Khan. The Awards are administered by a secretariat under the oversight of the Aga Khan Music Programme, an endeavour of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

ARA GUZELIMIAN

Ara Guzelimian is Artistic and Executive Director of the Ojai Music Festival. He served as Provost and Dean of the Juilliard School from 2007-2020. Prior to the Juilliard appointment, Mr. Guzelimian served as Senior Director and Artistic Advisor of Carnegie Hall (1998 to 2006) and Artistic Administrator of the Aspen Music Festival and School (1993 to 1998). He currently serves as Artistic Consultant for the Marlboro Music Festival and School in Vermont and is a member of the Artistic Committee of the Borletti-Buitoni Trust in London.



HALA MOHAMMED AL KHALIFA

Hala Mohammed Al Khalifa is a Bahraini artist and cultural figure who has made significant contributions to Bahrain's cultural infrastructure and institutions. Educated in the UK and the USA, she has taught art at the university level and taken part in local, regional, and international art exhibitions as both an organiser and a participant. In Bahrain, she has held senior positions in cultural institutions whose responsibilities include exhibitions, publications, museum education, public art projects, and the advancement of the artistic landscape within communities.



RACHEL COOPER

Rachel Cooper is an arts producer, global arts advocate, performing arts curator, festival director, and cultural diplomat. Since 1993, she has been affiliated with Asia Society/New York, where she developed pioneering projects in global arts and culture with a special focus on Asia, including the *Muslim Voices: Arts and Ideas Festival* and *Creative Voices of Muslim Asia*. At Asia Society, she has been a strong and abiding advocate for international cooperation in facilitating the movement of performing artists across national borders.





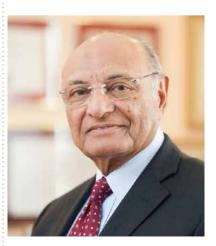
RICHARD KURIN

Richard Kurin joined the Smithsonian Institution in 1976 and was the longtime director of its Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, which produces the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival and oversees Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. Before assuming his current position, he served as Under Secretary for History and Culture, overseeing the Smithsonian's national museums, scientific research centres and educational programs. An anthropologist by training, Kurin has deep expertise in the sociology and arts of India and Pakistan.



SALIMA HASHMI

Salima Hashmi is an accomplished painter and also runs her own art gallery that features the work of young artists. She taught at the prestigious National College of Arts (NCA) in Lahore, Pakistan, for more than thirty years and served as its principal for four years. She is the former Dean of the School of Visual Arts and Design at the Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, and is chair of the Faiz Foundation, which holds the Faiz International Festival, an annual celebration of Pakistan's renowned poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz.



SHAMSH KASSIM-LAKHA

Shamsh Kassim-Lakha led the planning, building and operation of the University of Central Asia and was the Founding President of the Aga Khan University, the first private university chartered in South Asia, which was established by His Highness the Aga Khan in 1983, with campuses in Pakistan, East Africa and the United Kingdom. Dr. Kassim-Lakha served as Diplomatic Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network in the Kyrgyz Republic and as Pakistan's Federal Minister of Science and Technology and of Education.

LUIS MONREAL

Luis Monreal is a conservation specialist, art historian and archaeologist. Prior to joining the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, he served as Curator of Barcelona Museums, Secretary General of the International Council of Museums, Director of the Getty Conservation Institute, and Director General of La Caixa Foundation, He has participated in archaeological missions in Nubia, Sudan, Egypt and Morocco and is the author of several books and numerous articles on art and archaeology.



FARROKH DERAKHSHANI

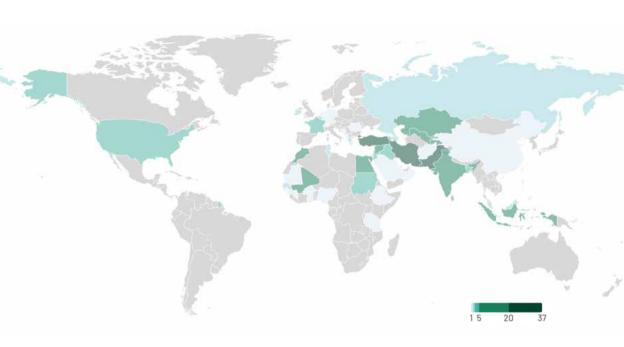
Farrokh Derakhshani has been affiliated with the Aga Khan Award for Architecture and the Aga Khan Development Network since 1982. He has served as a jury member at schools of architecture in Europe, Africa and Asia and has lectured widely on topics ranging from disposable buildings to architecture in the Muslim World, his principal field. His professional work has included the design and construction management of large-scale public works and infrastructure projects in Iran as well as architectural design in Paris and Geneva.



AWARDS PROCESS

Nominations for the Aga Khan Music Awards come from a distinguished international group of external nominators invited by the Awards Secretariat. An independent Master Jury reviews nominees in a multi-stage process and selects the laureates of each awards cycle.

NOMINATIONS BY COUNTRY



3/ Iran
34 Pakistan
20 Turkey
14 Tajikistan
13 Kazakhstan
12 India
10 Palestine
9 Morocco
9 Uzbekistan
8 Indonesia
8 Lebanon
7 Syria
5 Egypt
5 Mali

4 Iraq

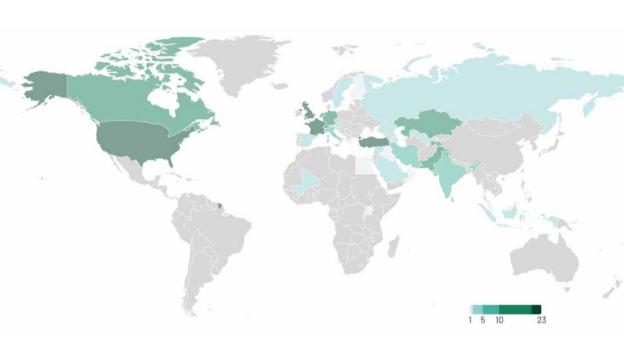
4 USA
3 Armenia
3 Bangladesh
3 France
3 Jordan
3 Sri Lanka
3 Sudan
2 Azerbaijan
2 Belgium
2 Greece
2 Ireland
2 Israel
2 Malaysia
2 Qatar
2 Russia

2 Senegal	
2 Tunisia	
1 Afghanistan	
1 Albania	
1 Bahrain	
1 Bosnia &	
Herzegovina	
1 Burkina Faso	
1 China	
Cillia	
1 Ethiopia	
1 Ethiopia	
1 Ethiopia 1 Georgia	

1	Kyrgyzstan
1	Mauritania
1	Netherlands
1	Niger
1	Oman
1	Philippines
1	Romania
1	Saudi Arabia
1	Switzerland
1	Tanzania
2	60 TOTAL

1 Kuwait

NOMINATORS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE



- 23 France
- 23 United States
- 21 Turkey
- **20** United Kingdom
- 19 Canada
- 18 Germany
- 18 Pakistan
- 17 Switzerland
- 13 Kazakhstan
- 12 Lebanon
- 12 Netherlands
- 10 Tajikistan
- 9 Iran
- 5 India
- 5 Italy

- 4 Saudi Arabia
- 3 Spain
- 3 Uzbekistan
- 2 Austria
- 2 Azerbaijan
- 2 Indonesia
- 2 Mali
- 2 Palestine
- 2 Qatar
- 2 Russia
- 2 Sweden
- 2 Syria
- 1 Belgium
- 1 Egypt
- 1 Finland

- 1 Greece
- 1 Iraq
- 1 Malaysia
- 1 Oman
- 1 United Arab Emirates
- 1 Uganda
- 262 TOTAL



The Master Jury and Advisory Council of the Aga Khan Music Awards gathered in Salzburg from 31 July to 1 August 2025 for a series of pivotal deliberations shaping the Awards cycle.



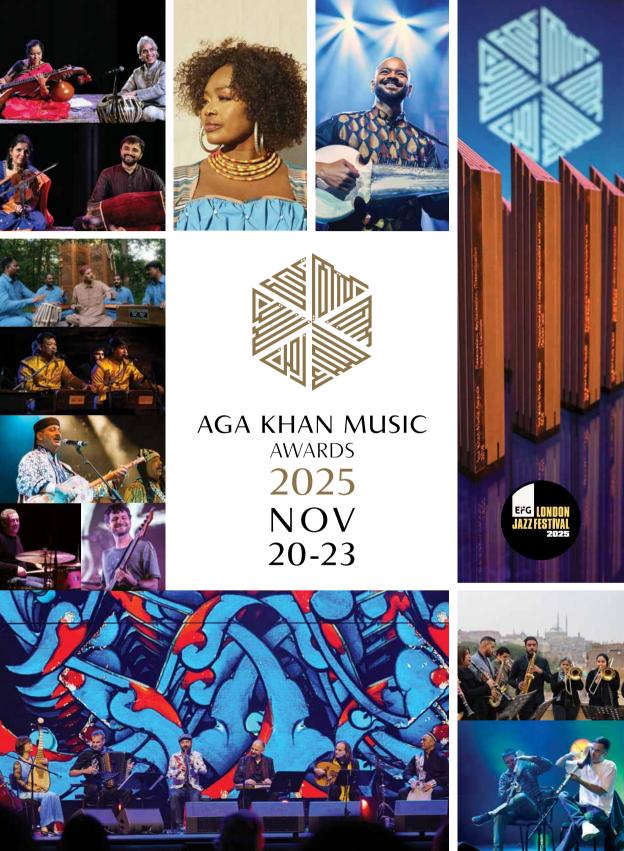
The Aga Khan Music Awards 2025 Advisory Council and Master Jury met in Doha, Qatar in January 2025, and attended the "Manzar" exhibition at the National Museum of Qatar.

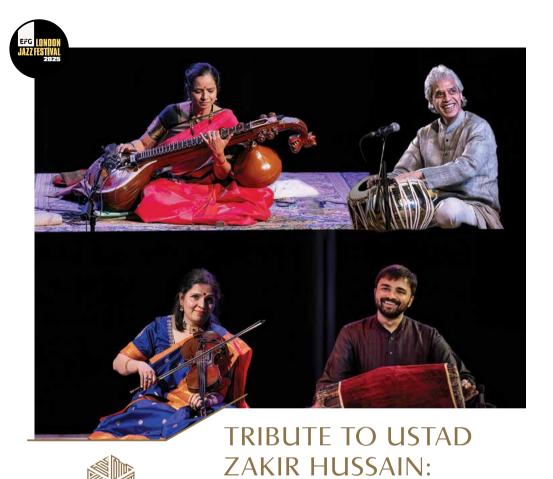




Under the chairmanship of Prince Amyn Aga Khan and Prince Aly Muhammad Aga Khan, the gathering brought together some of the world's most distinguished musical minds and cultural visionaries.

AKMA 2025 FESTIVAL PROGRAMME @EFG LONDON JAZZ FESTIVAL





 ${\overset{\text{NOV}}{20}}_{\text{(THUR.)}}$

Two sessions: 1:00pm / 9:00pm Ismaili Centre, London

TRIVENI QUARTET

Triveni Quartet honours the tabla legend and 2022 AKMA Lifetime Achievement laureate.

Fazal Qureshi, tabla Kala Ramnath, violin Jayanthi Kumaresh, saraswati veena Anantha Krishnan, mridangam





NOV

∠ I (FRI.) MUSICIANS & FRIENDS
7:30pm
Southbank Centre
Royal Festival Hall

AKMM: Basel Rajoub, saxophone & duclar; Feras Charestan, ganun; Wu Man, pipa; Yurdal Tokcan, oud; Abbos Kosimov, doira & percussion; with: Vincent Peirani, accordion Guests: Qawwali by the Warsi Brothers; gawwali & khyal by the Saami Brothers, featuring Ustad Naseeruddin Saami; Hamid El Kasri with Gnawa Kouyous, Karim Ziad, and Michael League.

FROM THE GREAT EAST

AGA KHAN MASTER





NOV

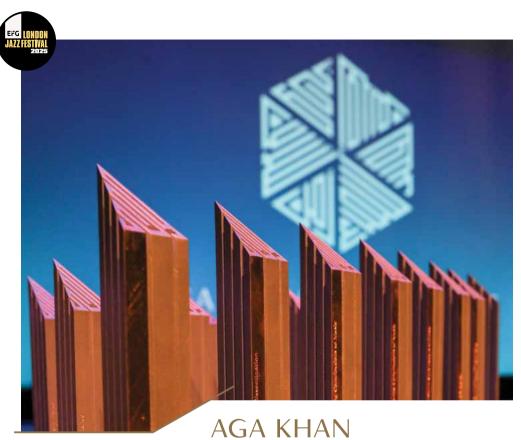
22

(SAT.)

AGA KHAN MUSIC PROGRAMME FREESTAGE

12:00pm Southbank Centre Clore Ballroom at Royal Festival Hall

An afternoon of free performances featuring presentations by talented artists from the UK and global Ismaili community, a percussion masterclass (hand drums provided!) and show with world music percussion luminaries, and cameo appearances by special surprise guests.





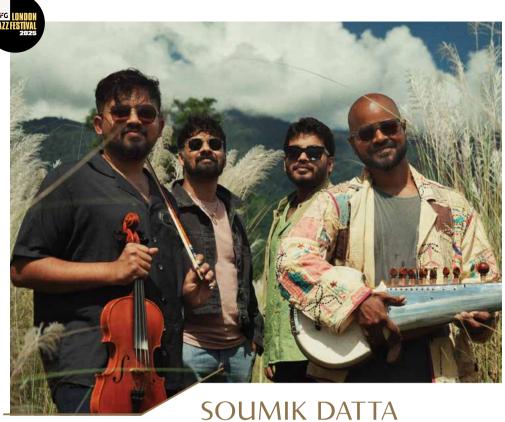
> NOV 22 (SAT.)

7:30pm Southbank Centre Queen Elizabeth Hall

MUSIC AWARDS

CEREMONY 2025

The centrepiece of the festival: a celebration of AKMA 2025 winners, with captivating live performances, specially-crafted animations, commissioned films, and remarkable new collaborations taking shape in real time.





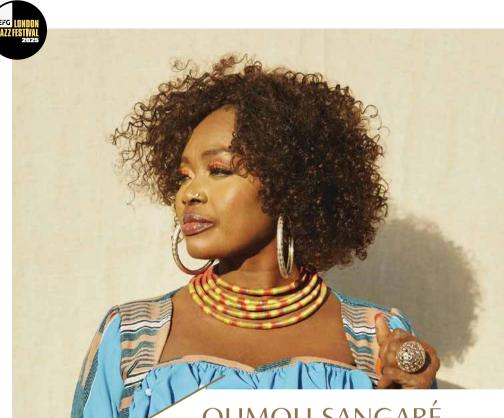
> NOV 23 (SUN.)

UK PREMIERE OF
"TRAVELLERS"
FOR SAROD, VIOLIN, TABLA,
MRIDANGAM, AND PERCUSSION

4:30pm Southbank Centre Purcell Room

The composer and sarod virtuoso—himself an Aga Khan Music Awards 2022 winner —presents Travellers, a major new work for *sarod*, violin, tabla, *mridangam*, and percussion.

Soumik Datta, sarod & composition Sayee Rakshith, violin Debjit Patitundi, tabla Sumesh Narayanan, mridangam & percussion



NOV

23
(SUN.)

OUMOU SANGARÉ & AKMA WINNERS WITH THE BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA

6:30pm Southbank Centre Queen Elizabeth Hall

Grammy-winning Malian singer and AKMA master jury member Oumou Sangaré performs with the BBC Concert Orchestra. The evening also features performances by 2025 laureates, creating a transcontinental finale that embodies the Awards' spirit of music as a shared language across cultures.

«Following our long-time collaborations with the Aga Khan Music Programme, we are thrilled to host the Aga Khan Music Awards 2025, along with an expansive programme complementing the Awards within this year's EFG London Jazz Festival. This partnership reinforces Festival's spirit of discovery and global connections. The Awards share our belief in music as a powerful force for creativity and cultural dialogue, and the programme offers an opportunity to witness exceptional performances and unique collaborations. AKMP and the Festival are proud to invite many master musicians to London stages, bringing them together with the Festival audiences as part of our 2025 line-up.»

Pelin Opçin Director, EFG London Jazz Festival

EFG LONDON JAZZ FESTIVAL

Now in its 33rd year (14–23 November 2025), the Festival is a global celebration of music, presenting boundary-pushing performances that illuminate jazz and its influence across genres and cultures.

SERIOUS

Serious are independent presenters of high-quality live music, with over 30 years' experience in producing events from grassroots to large-scale concerts, festivals and tours. They are creators of new commissions, participatory projects, cultural events and development schemes for emerging talent. Serious has been the production partner of the Aga Khan Music Awards for the Lisbon, Muscat and London Awards ceremonies.

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the nation's top visitor attractions, with over 4.45 million visitors a year. It includes the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, Hayward Gallery, and the National Poetry Library. Set across 11 acres, it is London's cultural meeting place for the arts and plays host to thousands of performances, exhibitions, and free events each year.





AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE



Malika Fairouz Nishanova. Director Theodore Levin. Senior Advisor Marina Aline Lebernegg, Executive Concert Producer

Nathalie de Groot. Coordinator

Kirill Kuzmin, Programme Officer

Aga Khan Music Awards:

Sound engineers: Jean Madani, Yvan Bing

Film & media director: Mauro Silva

Video: Rhian John-Hankinson, Conor Reilly, Scot MacMillan, Lewis

Raeburn, Rumi Kotadia

Photography: Ioão Octávio Peixoto. Elizabeth Chalmers

Graphic design: Karma Tohmé, Rajwa Tohmé

Printing: Khawam Group for Printing, Beirut, Lebanon

Trophy design: Line Hachem

Trophy production: Kunstgiesserei St. Gallen/Sebastian Lenggenhager







Event production:

Serious (UK) & The EFG London Jazz Festival team:

Pelin Opcin. Director

Ben Llovd-Evans. Executive Producer

Fli Marra, Shaun Coombs, Producers

Simea Holland, Operations Manager

Alastair Pickard, Dylan Bate, Stage Managers Ania Buesdorff, Dila Vardar, less Thomas, Production Coordinators

Prof. Julian Hepple, Chris Tanton, Audio

Southbank Centre:

Administration, production, technical and marketing departments

Aga Khan Music Programme:

Magda Ferreira, Producer

Carin Isacsson, Hospitality & logistics coordinator

The Aga Khan Music Programm extends sincere gratitude to the leadership and volunteers of the Ismaili National Council for the United Kingdom whose dedication and invaluable contributions have been instrumental to AKMA 2025.

With special appreciation to: Naushad Jivraj, Aahil Damani, Abbas Dhanani, Adil Jetha, Aliya Meghji, Asif Sarangi, Faisal Jamal, Faiz Mitha, Farrah Adatia, Henry Macpherson, Imran Merchant, Inara Somani, Laila Shariff, Mushtari Saidekova, Naz Visram, Noorez Nasser, Rahim Manji, Rubina Kassam, Shereen Jivraj, Soraya Shamji, along with the many others who gave their time and energy so generously behind the scenes.

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