



AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE

Music Initiative

Save the Date

Artists from the Aga Khan Music Initiative

Date: Wednesday, 7th March 2018 • Time: 8.00 p.m.

Venue: Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa

An ensemble that will showcase devotional songs, mystical music and dance traditions of the Central Asian Pamiri people will be touring Kenya in March 2018 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of His Highness the Aga Khan.

The concert will consist of two components – the Badakhshan Ensemble and the Afghan *Rubab* Duet.

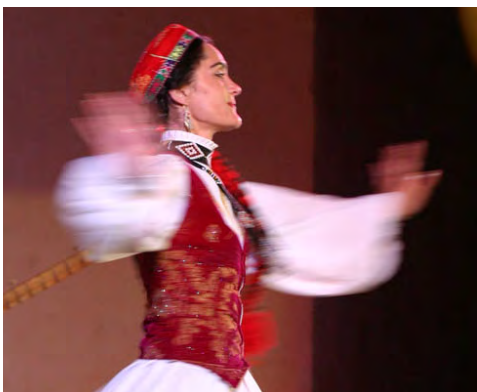
Badakhshan Ensemble

In Tajikistan, local traditions of devotional song, mystical music, and dance have flourished among the mountain-dwelling Pamiri people, many of whom are Shia Isma'ili Muslims. Artists of the Ensemble present their musical practices which have nourished the preservation of traditional culture.



Mukhtor Muborakqadomov

Mukhtor Muborakqadomov began playing music at the age of eight. He is a member of the Badakhshan Ensemble which performs both traditional Badakhshani music and contemporary pop songs - the latter typically in the context of local wedding festivities. He also composes melodies for song lyrics drawn from classical Persian and Badakhshani poetry.



Soheba Davlatshoeva

Founder and director of the Badakhshan Ensemble, Soheba Davlatshoeva is an accomplished performer, singer, dancer, and instrumentalist who explains that musical sound is capable of conveying inner meaning, or *batin*, and it is the duty of performers to understand and transmit this through their music, regardless of linguistic barriers. This kind of musical ethos is firmly ingrained in the musical thinking of Isma'ili musicians from Badakhshan.



Aq Nazar Alovatov

One of the most talented and sought-after *maddoh* (literally “praise”) singers in Badakhshan today, Aq Nazar Alovatov stresses that the text used in *maddoh* is educational and can convey important teachings about moral character, right livelihood, empathy, honesty and courage.



Khushbakt Niyozov

Khushbakt Niyozov is a master performer on the Afghan *rubab*, a versatile instrument that plays a central role in Afghan folk, classical, and popular music.

It is also used in Tajik Badakhshan. Khushbakht performs traditional Badakhshani instrumental genres.

Afghan Rubab Duet

Afghan *rubab* virtuoso Homayoun Sakhi teams up with percussionist Salar Nader on tabla for a performance devoted to the traditional Kabuli style of Indian *raga* performance. Nader will render “answers” to Sakhi's “questions” by transferring the rhythmic patterns of the *rubab* to his 'drums'.



Homayoun Sakhi

Born in Kabul into one of Afghanistan’s leading musical families, Sakhi is the heir to a musical lineage that began in the 1860s, when the ruler of Kabul brought classically trained musicians from India to perform at his court. Sakhi performs North Indian music from an Afghan perspective, thus reuniting *raga* with its original source: the cultivated musical traditions of the Iranian world.



Salar Nader

Salar Nader was born in Hamburg, Germany, to Afghan parents forced to flee their home during the Russian-Afghan war. He began classical training early, first concentrating on the spoken rhythmic language of North Indian percussion, *tabla bols*. While Nader is a regular performer at AKMI, he is also a teacher, visiting schools worldwide for lecture demonstrations and teaching.

The Aga Khan Music Initiative, which is part of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, is an interregional music and arts education programme which helps preserve Central Asia’s endangered musical heritage by ensuring its transmission to a new generation of artists and audiences. The Music Initiative supports musicians it has identified as tradition-bearers who are revitalising important musical repertoires. It also supports a worldwide music touring programme and disseminates Central Asian music through a variety of media projects.