



## The Silk Road Ensemble Returns to the Aga Khan Museum for a Musical Journey Around the World on June 28 and 29

Witness a global array of cultures on film, in concert, and at the Museum



Members of the Silk Road Ensemble © Liz Linder Photography

**Toronto, June 19, 2017** – The Aga Khan Museum invites visitors to embark on a musical journey featuring the renowned Silk Road Ensemble. On **June 28 at 7 pm** the Museum presents a screening in the Museum’s auditorium of the 2016 documentary *The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble*. The Grammy-nominated feature follows members of the Ensemble as they travel the world exploring the ways art can shape cultural evolution. Then, on **June 29 at 8 pm**, distinguished musicians and composers take centre stage to celebrate cross-cultural approaches to music during **The Silk Road Ensemble in Concert**.

These events complement the Museum’s current exhibition, *Syrian Symphony: New Compositions in Sight and Sound*, which runs to August 13, 2017. The exhibition unites music, painting, and media arts for an interactive experience about the struggle to protect Syria’s cultural heritage. The exhibition includes works by Syrian composer/clarinetist Kinan Azmeh and Syrian-Armenian visual artist Kevork Mourad, both members of the Silk Road Ensemble. In 2016, the duo performed *Home Within* at the Museum, exploring Syria’s recent history by juxtaposing art and music. *Syrian Symphony* is presented in association with Silkroad, the arts organization established by cellist Yo-Yo Ma. For key insights into the exhibition, visitors can join Amirali Alibhai, Head of Performing Arts at the Museum, for a **curator’s tour** on **July 6 at 6:30 pm**.

“The Aga Khan Museum’s enduring relationship with Silkroad dates to our Anniversary Gala in 2015 when the Ensemble stayed for two days, offering open rehearsals and hands-on workshops for Toronto’s youth,” says Alibhai. “Two years on, our shared commitment to connecting cultures through the arts for local and global audiences remains as strong as ever.”

**The Silk Road Ensemble in Concert** at the Aga Khan Museum is: Shawn Conley (bass); Christina Courtin (violin); Sandeep Das (tabla); Mario Gotoh (violin); Kayhan Kalhor (kamancheh); Max Mandel (viola); Karen Ouzounian (cello); Shane Shanahan (percussion).

**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 the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, which was designed by architect Charles Correa. The surrounding park was designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic.

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