

MFA **H**

Special Cultural Presentation

**Mystics, Nomads, and Troubadours  
in Central Asian Music**

*Wednesday, October 31, 2007,*

*10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.*



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**10:15 a.m.**

(formatted for elementary school students)

**and 11:30 a.m.**

(formatted for older students and adults)

Brown Auditorium Theater  
The Caroline Wiess Law Building  
The Museum of Fine Arts,  
Houston  
1001 Bissonnet  
713-639-7300  
lectures@mfa.org  
www.mfa.org

Admission is open to the public and free for museum members and members of cosponsor organizations. Free with museum admission for nonmembers.

A reception follows the 11:30 a.m. program.



Above: Bardic Divas  
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Front: Alim Qasimov Ensemble  
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## **Special Cultural Presentation Mystics, Nomads, and Troubadours in Central Asian Music**

The rich diversity of Central Asian music and expressive culture is brought to life in this lecture-demonstration featuring renowned performers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Qaraqalpakstan (Uzbekistan), and Tajikistan. Commentary will be provided by Theodore Levin, Parents Distinguished Research Professor at Dartmouth College and curator of the ten-volume CD-DVD anthology *Music of Central Asia* coproduced by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and Smithsonian Folkways Recordings.

From Azerbaijan, the legendary singer Alim Qasimov and his daughter, Fargana, perform selections from Azerbaijani classical and folk music, accompanied by a quartet of traditional instruments: *tar* (lute), *kemanche* (spike fiddle), *balaban* (double reed oboe), and percussion. From Kazakhstan and Qaraqalpakstan, Bardic Divas illustrate the power of the female voice in a variety of Central Asian styles. And from Tajikistan, trance-inducing mystical songs based on texts by Rumi, Hafez, and Nasir Khusrow confirm the eternal life of these classical poets' works.

This program is presented in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition *Traces of the Calligrapher and Writing the Word of God: Calligraphy and the Qur'an*.

*This program is generously cosponsored by the Aga Khan Music Initiative in Central Asia, a program of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Imami Ismaili Council for the Southwestern United States, and the Asia Society Texas Center.*

*The Spiritual Sounds of Central Asia tour is co-produced by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and World Music Institute.*



*All education programs at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, receive endowment income from funds provided by Caroline Wiess Law, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the Fondren Foundation, BMC Software, Inc., the Wallace Foundation, The Louise Jarrett Moran Bequest, and the Favrot Fund.*