



Ek Shaam Mirza Ghalib Ke Naam - An Evening with Mirza Ghalib in Toronto

Agenda:

- 5:15 pm - Welcome by Emcee Asif Raza
- 5:20 pm - Spoken Word by Shakila Rafiq, Ashfaq Hussain & Consul General Sahebzada A. Khan
- 5:45 pm - Opening of Khuda Bux Abro's calligraphic Art Exhibition with Skype interview
- 6:00 pm - Dinner
- 6:30 pm - Sitar by Anwar Khurshid accompanied by Karan Minhas Singh on the tabla
- 7:30 pm - Ghazals by Sanjay Lall and Rakshanda Ahmed
- 8:30 pm - closing

Participant Bios:



Consul General Sahebzada A. Khan: has been Pakistan's Consul General in Toronto for the last two years. He is a career diplomat with over 22 years of experience. Mr.

Khan has held diplomatic assignments abroad in India, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar and Norway. He holds a Master's Degree in International Politics from Johns Hopkins University in the United States.



Khuda Bux Abro was born in Hyderabad and has dabbled in every form of the visual arts. An activist to the core, Abro's work deals with social themes and issues ranging from human rights to dictatorial regimes. An ardent supporter of free media, Abro's illustrations, cartoons, posters, calligraphy, graphic design and paintings are now on Flickr."



Asif Raza: Is a seasoned photographer and has been credited with being a pioneer in commercial photography in Pakistan. He is responsible for setting up the photography department at the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. He is currently teaching photography at George Brown College where he has been instrumental in re-defining the entire photography program. He is also involved in philanthropic programs out of Pakistan and Bangladesh where he is conducting programs in photography as a tool for self awareness and social change at a grass root level. In the last couple of years he has created multiple online art portals, in particular www.islamicartmole.com, an art portal that he hopes will bring about an awareness and showcase the richness of Islamic art and its traditions from across the globe.



Shakila Rafiq: is a Toronto-based Urdu short story writer, author and poetess who has got her Masters in Urdu literature from the Karachi

University. She is an expert in the art of storytelling and has gone onto write articles based on humour and sensitive issues that affect us all. From her first literary novel "Dard Hai Apna Saathi" to the recent "Ismat Appa - Us Ek Shaam Ki Guftagoo," she has captivated the imagination of young and old readers alike.



Ashfaq Hussain is a well known Canadian Urdu poet and writer of Pakistani origin, who recently received the President of Pakistan's Pride of Performance Award. He was born in Karachi in 1951, obtained his Master's degree in Urdu literature from University of Karachi in 1974 and began his career as a lecturer. He migrated to Canada in 1980 and won the ATN Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006 and other international awards such as: Mohammad Ali Johar Award, Delhi, Majlis e Farogh e Adab, Gold Medal, Doha & Urdu International Ahmad Daya Award, USA.



Adil Ali Khan: is the founder and director of South Asian Gallery of Art (SAGA) located in Toronto, Canada. He is a seasoned curator with over 20 group exhibitions and 3 major retrospectives. His most recent exhibitions titled "Picture House: The Art of Bollywood" at the Art Gallery of Mississauga, "Life of a Vagabond" at the Tivoli Art Gallery in Dhaka and "Mahal Maharaja and Mansaram" at the Art Square Gallery in Toronto received critical acclaim.



Sanjay Lall: was born in Ludhiana, Punjab, India. He started learning music from an early age and started his musical career as a guitarist. His interest in light classical music intensified and he got professional lessons from musical gurus across India. Lall's soft mellow voice and inimitable style reminds one of Jagjit Singh. He has also sung in a movie called "Chahat" as background singer.



Rakshanda Ahmed: Comes from a family of music and art lovers. The love for Urdu poetry and Indian classical music was instilled in her from a very young age. Her training in classical music began early with the late Ustad Shabbir Hussain Khan and later Ustad Bulund Iqbal Sahab who still resides in Karachi, Pakistan and Mahesh Mulwani of Sangeetanjali Institute of Music, Canada. Rakshanda enjoys singing Ghalib and Faiz ghazals.



Anwar Khurshid: Is a classically trained musician from Pakistan and has made Canada his home for more than 20 years. Because of Anwar's attention to the nuances of vocal music and his high technical ability, his instrument becomes a voice. Anwar explores the intricate spaces between notes and beats with ease and is tireless in his pursuit of pure music. His music has influences ranging from Indian Classical to Blues, Chinese and Arabic music. Recently he has performed at the AGO, Place des Arts Montreal, Lakehead University Thunder Bay, Kamani Auditorium, Delhi and Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto.



Karanjeet Singh Minhas: has studied the tabla under his guru Prof. Purshotam Singh of Waterloo Ontario for almost 20 years. He began performances at the age of 14 and has performed in many countries around the world. He has also studied with world renowned tabla masters Pt. Anindo Chatterjee and Ustad Zakir Hussain.

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