

## Aga Khan Museum and TVO return with more extraordinary stories from the Muslim world in Season 3 of *This Being Human*

*Premiering April 11, the highly anticipated podcast returns with an even bigger lineup of internationally acclaimed guests, including best-selling author Najwa Zebian, poet and translator Coleman Barks, award-winning journalist Noor Tagouri, and all-woman metal band Voice of Baceprot.*

TORONTO, CANADA – April 11, 2023 – *This Being Human*, the Aga Khan Museum’s renowned podcast returns on April 11, bringing listeners more extraordinary stories from the Muslim world and beyond. Presented in partnership with TVO, Season 3 will feature 21 new episodes and be available on streaming services such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Amazon Music and at [agakhanmuseum.org](https://agakhanmuseum.org) as well as [TVO.org](https://tvo.org).

Known for its thought-provoking, intimate conversations, *This Being Human* features prominent creative thinkers who bring their own unique perspectives on Muslim art, history, and society. The podcast invites listeners on a journey of self-discovery and cultural understanding, discussing all aspects of life, culture, and work, focusing on various topics ranging from art and creativity to education and sports.

Season 3 boasts an impressive lineup of guests, including:

- Najwa Zebian – a bestselling writer of poetry and inspirational books, including *Mind Platter* and *Welcome Home: A Guide to Building a Home for Your Soul*, Zebian shares how writing saved her from aimlessness, her struggles immigrating to Canada as a teenager, and where she finds the simple, yet profound words of wisdom she shares with her 1.3 million Instagram followers.
- Coleman Barks – the poet and translator known famously for bringing the mystical words of Rumi to mass contemporary audiences explores his relationship with Rumi’s writings and the ways in which his words have been interpreted over time.
- Noor Tagouri – the award-winning journalist, producer, and touring speaker talks about her beginnings in journalism at the age of 15, her high-profile quest to shine a light on how representation affects the stories we tell, and launching her own investigative series, Rep.
- Voice of Baceprot – the young, Indonesian, hijab-wearing metal trio share their resilient story and how their inspiring creativity earned them global recognition, from media outlets such as The New York Times and NPR to iconic rock bands such as Guns N Roses and Rage Against the Machine.

Listeners can expect the bi-weekly podcast to continue delving into the Muslim experience, pairing fascinating guests with the deeply personable storytelling of *This Being Human*’s distinctive host, award-winning journalist and educator Abdul-Rehman Malik. In the upcoming season, Malik will continue to elevate the listening experience, creating a compassionate, intimate space for much-needed conversations.

"Over the past two seasons, we've recorded almost 50 poignant, heartbreaking, challenging, and gloriously funny conversations with one thing flowing through all of them — a desire to become fully human. We feature people who are inspired by their faith and culture and engaged in creativity, cutting-edge thinking,

and compassionate action for a better world,” says Malik. “Listeners are going to hear us go even deeper into what makes our guests tick in Season 3. We're going to sit boldly at the intersections of culture, spirituality, and social change. I'm looking forward to leaning into my own story as well to help understand and explore the stories of our guests. These conversations nourish and provoke me in equal measure.”

“At the Museum, we believe in the power of storytelling to break down barriers, and with the *This Being Human* podcast, we ultimately hope to achieve that on a global scale,” says Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis, Director and CEO of the Aga Khan Museum. “Being able to return for a third season is an incredibly gratifying moment for us. It is a testament to how our vision has been resonating increasingly with audiences around the world. We see this podcast as one of the ways in which we can contribute to a better, more inclusive world through sparking important and often unexpected conversations, shifting perceptions, and providing space for new, alternative perspectives to be heard.”

“We’re pleased to support the third season of this fascinating podcast. The illuminating conversations and storytelling in *This Being Human* provide endless opportunities for building understanding across cultures, traditions, and time,” says John Ferri, VP of Programming and Content at TVO. “The first two seasons featured an incredible lineup of guests with thoughtful and heartening perspectives. Listeners everywhere need to hear Season 3.”

With a roster that’s inspiring as ever, Season 3 continues to celebrate the diversity and impact of the world’s most creative thinkers whose lives have been shaped by Muslim culture. From engaging conversations surrounding representation and displacement to finding purpose through creativity, *This Being Human* intimately builds connections between divides, showcasing what it truly means to be human.

#### **ABOUT THE PODCAST**

***This Being Human* (bi-weekly; 21 episodes x 25-40 minutes)**

**Season 3 Launches April 11**

**Host:** [Abdul-Rehman Malik](#)

**Executive Producer:** Lisa Gabriele; **Senior Producer:** Kevin Sexton, Antica Productions

**Available on iTunes, Spotify, and other podcast streaming services**

#### **SUPPORT**

The Museum wishes to thank **The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation** for their generous support of *This Being Human*.

#### **ABOUT THE HOST**

Writer, journalist, educator, and pop culture aficionado [Abdul-Rehman Malik](#) is currently lecturer at Yale University’s School of Divinity. At Yale, he also leads the Council on Middle East Studies cultural literacy initiative. He was a past artist-in-residence at the Doris Duke Foundation’s Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Design and Culture, where he curated a series called “What is Muslim Culture?” His most recent work for the BBC was a radio essay for Holy Week entitled “Behold the Man”, a Muslim meditation on a medieval depiction of Jesus. His work has been broadcast on BBC Radio, Radio 4, Radio 2, and the World

Service, and in countless online and print publications. He is a Toronto native and is an enthusiastic Aga Khan Museum supporter.

#### **ABOUT ANTICA PRODUCTIONS**

[Antica Productions](#) is one of North America's largest independent podcast studios. Recent shows include: *Lost Kids* (NBC/UCP); *Revisionaries with Michele Romanow* (Audible); *Seven Truths with Tanya Talaga* (Audible); and *Hustled* (*Toronto Star*), which Apple listed as one its favourite Canadian podcasts of 2020. 2021 will see the launch of several new Antica co-productions, including the much-anticipated *Translators* with the Black Eyed Peas and two podcast dramas for the CBC.

#### **ABOUT TVO**

TVO Media Education Group inspires learning that changes lives and enriches communities. Founded in 1970, we are a globally recognized digital learning organization that engages Ontarians of all ages with inclusive experiences and diverse perspectives. Through video, audio, games, courses, newsletters and articles, we're investing in the transformative potential of education for everyone. Funded primarily by the Province of Ontario, TVO is a registered charity supported by thousands of sponsors and donors. For more information, visit [TVO.me](#), [TVO.org](#) and [TVOkids.com](#).

#### **ABOUT THE AGA KHAN MUSEUM**

[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). Through permanent and temporary exhibitions, educational activities and performing arts, the Museum's mission is to spark wonder, curiosity, and understanding of Muslim cultures and their connection with other cultures through the arts. Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki, the Museum shares a 6.8-hectare site with Toronto's Ismaili Centre, which was designed by architect Charles Correa. The surrounding landscaped park was designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic.

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