

Living Pluralism Here & Now

Saturday, July 4, 2020 | 5:00pm PT | 6:00pm MT | 8:00pm ET

A COLLABORATIVE PRODUCTION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AND NATIONAL ARTS & CULTURE PORTFOLIOS

Rafique Van Uum, Moderator

A fourth year undergraduate student at the University of Toronto, Rafique studies global health, public policy and African studies. He is also an active member of the University of Toronto St George Ismaili Students Association.

While in high school, he served on the Steering Committee for the City of London's Community Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, and helped to shape London's first such strategy.

In 2019, he was selected as a Queen Elizabeth Scholar to complete a three-month internship at the Ubumwe Community Centre (UCC) in Gisenyi, Rwanda. Here, he taught mathematics and English, and developed inclusive programming for students with disabilities.

He is an advocate for pluralism and speaks out against all forms of discrimination and oppression. Rafique was raised in a multi-faith family and is currently a member of the Multi-Faith Family team under the Council for Canada's Diversity & Inclusion Portfolio.

Lynley Lewis, Panelist

Lynley Lewis is a Masters-prepared educational consultant and works with Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provincially.

He is passionate about the arts and enjoys conducting choirs like the Ismaili and church choirs in British Columbia, as well as painting, playing musical instruments, cooking and writing.

He enjoys teaching and helping others discover their potential. He believes in the power that each individual has to change their lives. He is a lifelong learner. He has travelled extensively and values the culturally rich experience of visiting other countries. He places a high priority on family and balance in his life.

Khatera Hashuri, Panelist

Khatera Hashuri was born in Afghanistan and left with her parents during the Civil War. The family were one of the first Afghan families who came to Canada in 1993 via India. From a young age, Khatera was raised among diverse cultures and grew up speaking Dari, Hindi, French and English, while balancing western and central Asian cultures.

Khatera has a passion for business, becoming a corporate transformation professional, optimizing supply chains, re-engineering business processes and creating operational efficiencies. She has partnered with organizations in aligning strategic visions to execution plans and led cross-functional teams to develop an integrated business planning approach.

Over the years, she has worked with organizations in the American, Canadian and European markets. She completed her Executive MBA program at the Georgia Institute of Technology and specialized in Global Business with a focus on the Chinese market.

She has volunteered in various institutional portfolios and projects, such as the World Partnership Walk, Education Board, Economic Planning Board and the Ismaili Volunteers Corp. Most recently, Khatera has been appointed Canadian national member of the Aga Khan Youth & Sports Board.

Alya Bejaoui, Panelist

Alya is a singer, songwriter and performer of mixed Tunisian and Indian descent from Ottawa and Toronto, Ontario. She graduated in 2019 from Ryerson University with a Bachelors degree in Creative Industries, specializing in the music industry and storytelling in media.

Her journey with singing started at a young age with brief experience with Indian classical music. As she entered secondary school, she discovered the Royal Conservatory of Music's vocal curriculum, training rigorously with her vocal coach before growing into the distinct pop/R&B sound she is known for today. Her songwriting and composition credits include *Guide The Way*, *Aaya Mawlana* and most recently, *The Other Side*, her debut single released worldwide on April 22nd 2020.

Embarking on collaborative projects over the years has allowed her to perform at Roy Thomson Hall alongside Salim-Sulaiman, the Aga Khan Museum for the inauguration of the Aga Khan Park, as well as the Luminato Festival as a part of the Awaaz Ensemble. Alya aims to create music that delves deeply and honestly into the experience of being human and she strongly believes that artists have a crucial, unmistakable and undeniable role in continuously re-shaping the world and bringing us authentically forward into the future.