Asian Arts Agency presents:

RIZWAN-MUAZZAM QAWWALS



Majestic qawwali music from the nephews and living legacy of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.

“Rizwan and Muazzam’s voices climb and swoop as if riding air currents”
BBC

TOURING UK & EUROPE IN 2022
RIZWAN-MUAZZAM QAWWALS

The Rizwan-Muazzam group is a Qawwali group, led by the internationally acclaimed Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's nephews, Rizwan and Muazzam. The sons of Mujahid Mubarak Ali Khan, they have been performing together as Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwals since the 1990s.

The two lead singers come from a direct family line of Qawwali music that spans over five centuries. Their grandfather was an uncle of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and taught Nusrat the art of qawwali vocal music. They themselves studied under their father, who died in 1996, and were then tutored by Nusrat. They have continued their uncle's pioneering efforts to transcend cultural, language and religious barriers and to bring to the world the devotional but vibrant Qawwali vocal music of the Sufi mystics.

Drawing upon a rich vein of Islamic and Sufi poetry, Qawwali music is a centuries-old form of Sufi devotional music from the Indian subcontinent in which romantic love is a metaphor for spiritual adoration and mystical enlightenment. It is not surprising that Qawwali has become a staple of Bollywood film scores and an increasingly central focus of world music programmes in concert halls and festivals throughout the world.

The band performs in traditional style - sitting on the ground rather than on seats - which they believe brings them closer to God. They sing in Farsi (Persian), Punjabi, and Urdu with an intensity that has led one commentator to call them, only half in jest, “the Qawwali Clash.” The brother’s live performances are regarded as being majestic, demanding, exciting, and deeply joyful, and it takes classical music into totally unexpected corners.

Performing songs that use hypnotic vocal repetition to induce a state of ecstasy, the brothers’ soaring voices are backed by a gharana, an ensemble of harmonium and tabla accompanied by handclaps. Intoxicating and entrancing, *“Rizwan and Muazzam’s voices climb and swoop as if riding air currents; the harmonium seeks a similar undulating flight path while fingertips flutter like hummingbirds across the tablas” (BBC).*

Having produced several acclaimed albums with **Real World Records,** Rizwan and Muazzam have also performed with fellow Pakistani singers and musicians at **the Coke Studio** Pakistan and have collaborated with artists from around the world including Fun- da-mental, UK DJ/**Producer Neil Sparks, Midival Punditz** and **Susheela Raman.**

In great demand, with worldwide followers, Rizwan-Muazzam have performed at festivals and venues globally, including: **Barbican London, WOMAD** in the UK, Italy and Abu Dhabi, **Korener Hall - Toronto,** Luminat’eau Festival - Canada, Llangollen International Festival Eisteddfod, Voices Festival at the London Royal Opera House, Edinburgh Mela, Jaipur Festival - India, Grand Performances - Los Angeles and Printemps des Arts - Monte-Carlo.

Rizwan-Muazzam toured to 8 venues across the UK in 2019 and six venues across the UK in 2017, presented and managed by Asian Arts Agency.

TOURING

Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwals performed to sold-out audiences at **London's Barbican Centre** on UK tours in 2017 and 2019. They also toured to 7 other venues across the UK in 2019: Sage Gateshead, Town Hall Birmingham, Royal Northern College of Music Manchester, Leeds Town Hall, Turner Sims Southampton, Royal Welsh College Cardiff and St George's Bristol. In 2017, Rizwan-Muazzam toured to six venues in the UK, both tours produced by Asian Arts Agency.

Rizwan-Muazzam have also performed sold-out tours and concerts in North America, Abu Dhabi and Australia, performing at the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

CONFIDENTIAL – Rizwan-Muazzam are due to release a new album on Real World Records. This was originally intended for 2020 to coincide with their UK and European tour, but we can update you on current release information as it comes in.

LINKS

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/rizmuzak/

WATCH / LISTEN

Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali | Boiler Room | Barbican London 2017
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaHOeQrvZiU

Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali | 2017 UK Tour Overview | Asian Arts Agency
https://youtu.be/LtNW8JeS_xo

Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali | Performing Jana Jogi De Naal | Asian Arts Agency
https://youtu.be/xLGMK8jtvy4

Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali | Allah Hoo Allah Hoo | Asian Arts Agency
https://youtu.be/_raaITpW-PY

Naina De Akhay | Rizwan & Muazzam Qawwals | Coke Studio Pakistan
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2SoRn4tzqc

PRESS – UK REVIEWS

Financial Times – review of Barbican gig by David Honigmann – 4 stars:
https://www.ft.com/content/40b87542-1399-11e7-b0c1-37e417ee6c76

God is in the TV Zine – Leeds gig:
http://www.godisinthetvzine.co.uk/2017/03/27/rizwan-muazzam-qawwali-howard-assembly-room-leeds-25032017/

Bristol 247 – review of Bristol gig:
https://www.bristol247.com/culture/music/review-rizwan-muazzam-khan-st-georges/

The Reviewer's Hub – 4 stars - review of Birmingham gig:
http://www.thereviewshub.com/rizwan-muazzam-qawwali-birmingham-town-hall/

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

“Mesmerising sold out Sufi music gig at Barbican Centre tonight with Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali”.

“Deserved rock star reception for amazing Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali”.

“Truly a mesmerising experience and I love Qawwali programmes but this one was exceptional and extra ordinary, truly worth it and loved it!”

***** *“What a truly marvellous, uplifting performance it was! As always St George's lent its superb acoustics to the presentation of spectacular music. First time I've ever been to a concert and hear the mention of a Sufi saint get a big cheer! Also good to see an enthusiastic, mixed audience. I very much hope to see more Asian Arts productions at St George's in the future. We will be there.”*

***** *“It was one of the best live Qawali shows I’ve ever been to after such a long time and I loved it. The show was a full house with amazing people and the singers. I hope to go back again in the future to enjoy more shows like these. I've met amazing organizer and some of the most humble people in my life through this show in St George’s. I hope everyone will enjoy more shows like these.”*

“One of the best nights of my life. I had a spiritual moment last night listening to the music and feeling the love in the room. I was truly blessed to be there.”

“I have seen a few Qawaals now but this is the first time I have seen a really diverse audience. Wonderful.”

“Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali are more than worthy successors to their Uncle, the legendary Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, and this performance proved that in every way. A pre-gig talk explained something of the roots of Qawaali and how and why it came to be the music of peace and love with a message that reaches out far beyond Islam, whilst retaining all of its spiritual and religious integrity. They certainly achieved their aims in Bristol with a mixed age, multi-cultural and enthusiastic audience.”



TOUR INFORMATION

About the artists
Rizwan Ali Khan - Lead Singer
Muazzam Ali Khan - Lead Singer
+ Harmonium, Tabla and 5 accompanying singers

About the performance
Title: Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali
Art form: Music
Genre: Qawwali
Audience suitability: A wide range of audiences (all age ranges)
Style: Seating
Number of performers: 10
Number on tour: 12 (Including drivers and tour manager)
Duration: 2 x 45 minute sets (Flexible)
Get In/Out: Indoor - 1 hour for sound check and 1 hour for load out. **Festival** – 30 min line check

Venue requirements:
- Stage area: Stage riser measuring 3.5m x 3.5m x 150cm with carpet covering full riser.
- Backstage: One green/dressing room
- P.A system: Full PA system, 24 channels front-of-house mixing board with on stage mix. 7 vocal mics, 2 tabla mic, 1 harmonium mic with 3 stage monitors.
- Technician: PA tech, stage hand
- Get in access from (time) 3 hours before the doors opening time
- Pre-rig from lighting plan on morning of show prior to crew arrival
- Secure parking space for two vehicles

Fees: Subject to ticket price capacity of venue.

Hotel: Rooms for 12 people in a minimum 4-star hotel with free Wi-Fi, car parking and complimentary breakfast

Booking: Interested venues should contact booking team with venue capacity, ticket price and available dates to discuss the fees

Marketing: Asian Arts Agency will provide images, copy, video material, artwork and a marketing info pack with suggested brochure copy, target audiences + key selling points.

TOUR PRODUCER: ASIAN ARTS AGENCY

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Bookings:

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ABOUT ASIAN ARTS AGENCY

Asian Arts Agency is a dynamic arts development agency based in Bristol that develops, promotes and supports international contemporary and traditional South Asian arts through performances, workshops, new commissions, tours, international showcasing and ongoing support to artists.

Recent tours with international artists include Hindustani slide guitar pioneer **Debashish Bhattacharya**, Pakistani Qawwali group **Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali**, Bollywood/Sufi singer **Harshdeep Kaur**, Pakistani Sufi singer **Sain Zahoor**, Canada's **Delhi 2 Dublin**, New York-based bhangra funk band **Red Baraat** and Indian classical maestro **Amjad Ali Khan** with his sons Amaan Ali Khan and Ayaan Ali Khan.

Asian Arts Agency has also worked with many other world-class artists including **Talvin Singh**, **Roopa Panesar**, **DJ Rekha**, **Malkit Singh**, **Niladri Kumar**, **Gurdas Maan**, **DJ Swami**, **The Dhol Foundation**, **Jazzy B**, **Susheela Raman**, **Anoushka Shankar**, **Transglobal Underground**, and **Zakir Hussain**.

For more information on Asian Arts Agency, visit:
www.asianartsagency.co.uk

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*Please note, Asian Arts Agency reserves the right to change the line-up and tour dates though every effort will be made to inform promoters in advance.