

COVE PARK

Media Release

For immediate release, Tuesday 2 June 2026

The Bagri Music Award 2026:

Ayman Hlal - Dates for Solo Performances in Scotland Announced.



Ayman Hlal (image courtesy of the artist).

Cove Park and the Bagri Foundation are delighted to confirm the dates for two solo performances in Scotland by the leading Syrian violinist Ayman Hlal.

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Saturday 25 July, 6.00 - 7.30pm

The Mackintosh Church, Glasgow

Saturday 1 August, 7.30 – 8.30pm

Ayman Hlal specialises in both Middle Eastern and Western classical music. A leading violinist, composer, and educator, since leaving Syria as a result of war, Ayman has participated in several national and international events and projects, and performed with multiple orchestras and bands, including the Syrian Expat Philharmonic Orchestra (SEPO), and Nai' Oriental Orchestra in Austria. Ayman is now based in Berlin, and although his work is rooted in Arabic musical traditions, he has also absorbed the influences of the city's diverse and vibrant musical cultures.

The performances, which coincide with Ayman's two-week residency at [Cove Park](#) in Argyll, are presented in partnership with the [Bagri Foundation](#).

In 2025 Cove Park embarked upon a two-year partnership with the Bagri Foundation to launch Sound Series, a new programme of residencies bringing acclaimed international musicians to the UK. The recipient of the first Award was the Palestinian composer and musician [Faraj Suleiman](#).

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On receiving the second Bagri Music Award, Ayman stated: 'I am deeply honoured to receive this award and very much look forward to this inspiring residency.'

Ayman is a former resident of Cove Park, having participated in the [Making Tracks Residency](#) in 2022, a group residency bringing together extraordinary national and international musicians organised by musician and producer [Merlyn Driver](#). Cove Park is delighted to have this opportunity to welcome Ayman back to Cove Park for a solo residency and performances in 2026, as the organisation works towards the development of a new [Sound Studio](#), located on its 50-acre rural site, for musicians, composers, and sound artists.



Ayman Hlal, image courtesy of the artist.

The Bagri Foundation works within a network of leading cultural organisations that champion artistic excellence and provide extraordinary artists from across Asia wider visibility on the global stage. Working collaboratively with Cove Park to nominate and select the artists, the Bagri Music Award is aimed at artistic development and is a unique opportunity for acclaimed emerging or mid-career musicians from West Asia to spend quality time in Scotland.

Ayman Hlal's residency has also been developed in collaboration with [SEPO](#), the first Symphony Orchestra for professional and academic Syrian musicians who live in the European Union. SEPO was founded in September 2015 in Germany by the Syrian musician Raed Jazbeh. The orchestra brings together approximately 75 musicians to preserve and protect Syria's rich cultural heritage in the face of destruction, while sending a powerful global message of peace, solidarity, and artistic excellence. Since its inception, the orchestra has toured extensively, performing on prominent European stages across Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Poland, Greece, Italy, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Further information and tickets for both the Cove Park and Mackintosh Church performances are available via [Ticket Tailor](#).

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Notes for Editors

Ayman Hlal

Ayman Hlal was born in As-Suwayda, a city in Syria that is particularly famous for producing artists. A rising star in his homeland, war in Syria resulted in Ayman seeking refuge in Berlin. Trained in both Western and Middle Eastern classical music, in Germany he started several projects, which have exposed him to further musical traditions. As a result of these collaborations, Ayman produced two albums featuring his own compositions and arrangements of oriental, flamenco and jazz music ('Felah Mengu' with the group Azuleo and the self-titled album of Tawabil Project).

A video profile of Ayman Hlal, commissioned by Making Tracks and filmed during his 2022 residency at Cove Park, [can be seen here](#).

Cove Park

Cove Park is an international residency based on an outstanding 50-acre rural site in Argyllon Scotland's west coast. Our programme of residencies, commissions, and collaborative projects respond to and promote the diversity of contemporary artistic practice. We support artists, creative practitioners, and researchers to develop and produce ambitious, innovative, and ground-breaking new work for audiences and participants across Scotland and beyond.

Cove Park's residencies are unique in the UK. From our launch in 2000, our programme was conceived for local, national, and international artists working individually and in collaboration in all art forms, and at every career stage. We remain the only residency in the UK to bring together at any one time, and consistently throughout the year, up to 14 individuals specialising in a wide range of disciplines. This means we can offer exceptional opportunities for interdisciplinary work and cultural exchange.

Bagri Foundation

The Bagri Foundation, established in 1990, is a family foundation driven by curiosity. Through grants and strategic partnerships, the Foundation champions unique ideas that weave the traditional and the contemporary of Asian culture. Recent projects include Myths, Dreams and New Realities featuring 13 emerging Asian artists co-curated with the Saatchi Gallery; a co-production, Thikra: Night of Remembering, by Akram Khan Company; and the first retrospective outside of India of Arpita Singh's work at the Serpentine Gallery, London. Additionally, the family continue to support education, relief work, development and healthcare.

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SEPO

The Syrian Expat Philharmonic Orchestra (SEPO) was founded in September 2015 in Germany by the Syrian musician Raed Jazbeh. SEPO's repertoire is defined by a seamless fusion of Eastern and Western traditions. The orchestra dedicates itself to introducing symphonic works by Syrian composers to the international classical music stage alongside Western masterpieces. Deeply committed to cultural dialogue, the ensemble also reimagines traditional Syrian and Oriental heritage music into grand orchestral forms. While utilizing full symphonic instrumentation, SEPO occasionally integrates traditional Oriental instruments to enrich and ground its authentic sonic identity.

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Engage with Cove Park:

Website: <https://covepark.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CoveParkResidencies>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cove_park/

Threads: https://www.threads.com/@cove_park

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cove-park-ltd/posts/>

Media Contact – Cove Park

Alexia Holt (Director)

alexia@covepark.org

+44 (0)1436 85050

Media Contact – Bagri Foundation

Stephanie Yeap (Programmes & Communications Manager)

syeap@bagrifoundation.org

+44 (0)207 280 0000

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