

NEWS RELEASE

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Skirball Cultural Center presents
NIYAZ FEATURING AZAM ALI
Iranian duo performs their unique brand of spiritual “folktronica”

Thursday, May 28, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Early-bird pricing through May 13: \$30 General | \$25 Skirball Members | \$20 Full-Time Students
FREE parking

Tickets available on site, online at skirball.org,
or by phone at (877) SCC-4TIX

“An evolutionary force in contemporary Middle Eastern music.”
—*Huffington Post*

LOS ANGELES, CA—The Skirball Cultural Center presents a live performance by the mesmerizing Iranian duo **Niyaz**, featuring vocalist **Azam Ali** and multi-instrumentalist **Loga Ramin Torkian**. Described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “mystical music with a modern edge,” Niyaz—which means “yearning” in both Farsi and Urdu—blend medieval Sufi poetry and folk songs from their native Iran with acoustic instrumentation and modern electronic rhythms. The result is a distinctively twenty-first-century global trance sound that crosses not only stylistic and cultural boundaries but generational ones as well. The music is enhanced by Ali’s rich, plaintive vocals and by conscientious, spiritual lyrics that explore the plight of immigrants and minority ethnic and religious groups. Niyaz—who from the beginning have strived to create social and political awareness through their work—use the beauty of their music and the artistry of their lyrics to speak out against injustice and oppression.

Created in 2004, Niyaz released a self-titled debut album in 2005, introducing their groundbreaking fusion of traditional Persian music with elements of electronica and trance. Since then, the now Montreal-based group has delivered three more full-length albums, including the recent *The Fourth Light* (2015). The new record—praised by *MTV Iggy* as “musically varied and rhythmically complex”—is inspired by the surviving poetry fragments of the early Sufi saint Rabia al-Basri, and features Ali singing in multiple languages, including Farsi, Dari, Turkish, and Urdu. The band will play tracks from *The Fourth Light* at the Skirball performance.

For more information about programs at the Skirball, call (310) 440-4500 or visit skirball.org.

About the Skirball

The Skirball Cultural Center is dedicated to exploring the connections between 4,000 years of Jewish heritage and the vitality of American democratic ideals. It welcomes and seeks to inspire people of every ethnic and cultural identity. Guided by our respective memories and experiences, together we aspire to build a society in which all of us can feel at home. The Skirball Cultural Center achieves its mission through educational programs that explore literary, visual, and performing arts from around the world; through the display and interpretation of its permanent collections and changing exhibitions; through an interactive family destination inspired by the Noah's Ark story; and through outreach to the community.

Visiting the Skirball

The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049. Museum hours: Tuesday–Friday 12:00–5:00 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; closed Mondays and holidays. Admission to exhibitions: \$10 General; \$7 Seniors, Full-Time Students, and Children over 12; \$5 Children 2–12. Exhibitions are always free to Skirball Members and Children under 2. Exhibitions are free to all visitors on Thursdays. For general information, the public may call (310) 440-4500 or visit skirball.org. The Skirball is also home to Zeidler's Café, which serves innovative California cuisine in an elegant setting, and Audrey's Museum Store, which sells books, contemporary art, educational toys, jewelry, and more.

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