

TO Live & Small World Music join forces for Small World Wednesdays

Artists include Bollywood's **Meesha Shafi** (Pakistan), singer **Garcia Ahmed Moneka** (Iraq), and Persian music superstars **Padideh Ahrarnejad** and **Ali Massoudi** (Iran)

www.tolive.com/livingrooms

(TORONTO, April XX, 2020) **TO Live's** popular online initiative – **Living Rooms** - is expanding!

Every Wednesday – from May 6 to June 24 – **TO Live's** daily online artist showcase - **Living Rooms** - will feature an artist from **Small World Music's** eMERGEance program, a program dedicated to supporting refugee, newcomer, and marginalized emerging artists in Toronto.

Small World Wednesdays will launch May 6 with **Garcia Ahmed Moneka**, who combines traditional jazz, Arabic maqam and African grooves drawing inspiration from his Afro-Arabic heritage.

Launched March 20, **Living Rooms** provides a daily platform for local artists to bring you an exciting performance from the comfort of their own living rooms. **TO Live's** curatorial, educational and content teams work together virtually to bring these entertaining and informative digital experiences to **TO Live's** online members, supporters and art fans daily. **Living Rooms** provides entertainment and a digital refuge during these challenging times and, to date, over 40 artist videos have been posted.

eMERGEance is **Small World Music's** (SWM) artist development program for under-represented and marginalized newcomer, refugee, and emerging artists. Dedicated to supporting career sustainability and integration into Toronto's music landscape and the Canadian cultural infrastructure, a cohort of 24 musicians were chosen from a pool of applicants to participate in the inaugural year's program, which includes career-development workshops, networking opportunities, music incubation, collateral creation, mentorship, and performance opportunities.

*"Like so many artists, many members of **Small World Music's** eMERGEance program have lost work and community engagement. Importantly, they have also lost connection with their audiences. We are so happy that **TO Live's** **Living Room** series offers them a platform to reconnect and gives the audiences of Toronto a chance to experience the rich variety of their talent and cultures,"* said **Josephine Ridge**, VP Programming, **TO Live**.

Confirmed **Small World Wednesdays** participating artists include:

Commented [JR1]: Most of the artists are participating in Small World's Facebook Livestream concert on 7 May.

I assume we are distributing our release this week, thought it would be nice to mention that. Should we provide a link to that?

Padideh Ahrarnejad and **Ali Massoudi** (Iran) - Persian music superstar couple plays Tar, a plucked-string instrument central to Persian music, and percussion, respectively

Meesha Shafi (Pakistan) - Actress (Bollywood's *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*), model (including Vogue India) and singer

Garcia Ahmed Moneka (Iraq) - Vocals, percussion

aMaNa (**Linar Rizatdinov** and **Anna Shabalina**) (Russia) - Russian cello/musical saw/vocals and bass/vocals, respectively

For more information on the **Small World Wednesday** artists, visit - <https://bit.ly/3f6Nqee>

For **Living Rooms** videos and updates, visit - <https://www.tolive.com/livingrooms>

About TO Live

TO Live is one of Canada's largest multi-arts organizations, operating three iconic venues: Meridian Hall, the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts and the Meridian Arts Centre. Within these two hubs of creativity and content creation, TO Live presents a full range of performing arts, theatrical and concert events at these venues in both downtown and uptown Toronto.

About the Small World Music Society

Established in 1997, Small World Music Society is a charitable organization that has earned a cherished place within Toronto's cultural fabric, with a reputation as the city's premier presenter of culturally diverse music. With its commitment to supporting local artists, fellow presenters, community groups and audiences, Small World truly is 'The Beat of the Globe in the Heart of Toronto!'

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Commented [JR2]: The Small World website lists them using their duo name: NaMaNa
Can we please include it as well.

Commented [JR3]: Please add a link:
To see more TO Live Living Room artists, visit:
<http://.....>