MEKAAL HASAN

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR | CULTURAL PROGRAMMER | MUSIC CURATOR | PRODUCER

A credentials profile for cultural institutions, government bodies, arts organisations, broadcasters, festivals and music-led projects.

EXPLORE THE WORK

LAHORE, PAKISTAN | AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE

CULTURAL & MUSIC PROGRAMMING EPK

Professional Profile

Mekaal Hasan is a Lahore-based international festival director, cultural programmer, curator, producer, musician and recording professional whose work spans large-scale public festivals, independent cultural platforms, institutional music programmes, talent development, television, recorded performance and documentary storytelling.

His professional value lies in combining artistic judgement with production knowledge, which allows him to develop a music-led project from concept and cultural direction through artist discovery, programme architecture, performance development, technical production, recording and public presentation.



DISCIPLINES

- Festivals
- Cultural Programming
- Artist Curation
- Talent Development
- Recorded Music
- Documentary
- Live & Technical Production

AT A GLANCE

- Festival Director and Producer, I Am Karachi Music Festival, 2015
- Festival Curator and Director, I Am Karachi Music Festival, 2017
- Co-curator of the British Council's inaugural SoundScape programme, 2023
- Creator, curator and producer of Rivayat, Seasons 1 and 2
- Represented Pakistan at the Cultural Olympiad, Shakespeare's Globe, London
- Founder of Digital Fidelity Studios, Lahore

Core Capabilities

Nine creative zones that carry a music-led project from cultural premise to public presentation.

01

Festival direction and programme architecture

02

Music and cultural curation across folk, classical, qawwali, Sufi, contemporary and cross-cultural work

03

Artist discovery, selection, mentorship and talent adjudication

04

Original music-series and cultural-IP development

05

Recorded performance, studio production and broadcast music

06

Live technical direction, sound and production quality control

07

Documentary and music-led cultural storytelling

08

International artistic collaboration and institutional programming

09

Community engagement and music-ecosystem development

Selected Career Evidence

PROJECT	ROLE / CAPACITY	WHY IT MATTERS
I Am Karachi Music Festival (2015)	Festival Director / Producer	Large-scale festival conception, mentorship, dialogue and live programming
I Am Karachi Music Festival (2017)	Festival Curator / Director	City-wide, community-focused Pakistani music programming
Art Langar Festival (2017)	Sound / Technical Production	Technical festival and sound-stage expertise
Koblumpi (2019 & 2020)	Show Direction / Programming Leadership	Independent artist-led festival development
Cultural Olympiad, Shakespeare's Globe	Music Director / Composer / Performer	International representation of Pakistan within a flagship festival programme
British Council SoundScape (2023)	Co-Curator	Institutional programme design, education and music-ecosystem development
Aga Khan Museum, The Night of Song	Concept / Producer / Performer	Institution-partnered documentary and tribute performance, now touring internationally
Anton Davidyants: Beyond the Bass Documentary	Creator / Producer	Closes the distance between musicians and artists, encouraging international artists to share their voice worldwide and hosting them at DFS, Lahore
Rivayat, Seasons 1 & 2	Creator / Curator / Producer	Original cultural music property; artist discovery, recording and global collaboration
Dhun	Music documentary collaboration	Cultural storytelling; featured at Alchemy Festival, Southbank Centre
Talent Shows	Judge / Mentor	Pakistan Sangeet Icon, Mobilink Jazz Icon, Pakistan Idol and invited Beaconhouse Icon role

Festivals Created (Conceived, Programmed & Delivered)

Mekaal Hasan does not only appear on cultural platforms. He designs and builds them. Each of the properties below was created from concept, programmed and then delivered in production.

I AM KARACHI MUSIC FESTIVAL

2015 & 2017

Designed and created

Festival Director and Producer in 2015; Festival Curator and Director in 2017. Programme curation, artist booking and scheduling, production and sound.

KOBLUMPI MUSIC FESTIVAL

2019 & 2020

Designed and created

An independently developed, artist-led festival concept built outside any pre-existing institutional framework. Show direction, programming and creative leadership across two editions.

ART LANGAR FESTIVAL

ISLAMABAD, 2017

Technical design

Sound and technical production for the festival stage, covering artist requirements, live sound and performance flow.

BRITISH COUNCIL SOUNDSCAPE

2023

Co-curated

Co-curator of the inaugural edition of the British Council's flagship music programme, connecting artists, educators and industry leaders.

PLATFORMS AND INSTITUTIONS

I AM KARACHI
میں کراچی

koblumpi MUSIC Festival 2019

SOUND SCAPE
music symposium & masterclass series

BRITISH COUNCIL

THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE | THE NEWS / INSTEP | DAWN / IMAGES | DAILY TIMES | PROFESSIONAL ARCHIVE

FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING IN PRACTICE

Inside the festivals



I Am Karachi Music Festival, 2015



I Am Karachi Music Festival, 2015



I Am Karachi Music Festival, main stage



I Am Karachi Music Festival, qawwali programming



I Am Karachi Music Festival, 2017



Koblumpi Music Festival, 2020

Institutional Music Curation

BRITISH COUNCIL SOUNDSCAPE · 2023

Co-Curator

The British Council identifies SoundScape as its flagship music programme and confirms that its inaugural 2023 edition was co-curated by Mekaal Hasan. The programme brings together artists, educators and industry leaders to strengthen Pakistan's music ecosystem through learning, dialogue and international collaboration.

This credit demonstrates the ability to work within a major international cultural institution while designing programmes that connect legacy, emerging talent, professional development and sector-wide dialogue.

BRITISH COUNCIL, SOUNDSCAPE | BRITISH COUNCIL, MASTERCLASS SERIES

THE CREDENTIAL

PROGRAMME	SoundScape
INSTITUTION	British Council Pakistan
EDITION	Inaugural, 2023
ROLE	Co-Curator

WHY THIS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

- Programme design for institutional and public audiences
- Artist and contributor curation
- Professional-development and masterclass programming
- Intergenerational dialogue between established and emerging musicians
- International cultural collaboration
- Understanding of music as an ecosystem rather than a single event

SOUNDSCAPE music symposium & masterclass series | BRITISH COUNCIL

Legacy Projects with Cultural Institutions

Mekaal Hasan conceives projects and executes them in partnership with cultural institutions that support the arts, developing the concept, building the work and delivering it as both a live presentation and a permanent record.

AGA KHAN MUSEUM · THE NIGHT OF SONG

Concept · Documentary · Live performance

Developed over three years with the Aga Khan Museum, the project presents Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan as a major cultural force and as one of Pakistan's most significant contributions to world music. Mekaal Hasan conceived and delivered the project for the institution.

He revisited and reimagined the album Night Song, which produced a new album and live performance titled The Night of Song, conceived as a tribute to the original record.

A documentary feature was then produced featuring Michael Brook, the original producer of Night Song. The documentary was produced by Mekaal Hasan in collaboration with the Aga Khan Museum and is housed with the museum.

The project is now touring internationally and is scheduled to travel to the United States and Canada in 2027.

PROJECT DETAIL

INSTITUTION	Aga Khan Museum
DEVELOPMENT	Three years
SUBJECT	The legacy of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan
OUTPUTS	Documentary feature, album and live performance
DOCUMENTARY	Featuring Michael Brook, producer of Night Song
ROLE	Concept, creation, production and execution
TOURING	United States and Canada, 2027

THE UNIQUE SKILL

> *Mekaal Hasan conceives a project, creates it, realises it and executes it, working out every aspect from beginning to end, so that each institution is left with a documented cultural contribution and an audience able to experience the work live.*

Documentary & Cultural Storytelling

Long-form work documenting artists, traditions and histories beyond the stage.

DHUN

MUSIC DOCUMENTARY COLLABORATION

Developed with filmmaker Bilal Sami, Dhun extends Hasan's work from live and recorded music into documentary storytelling. Bilal Sami's professional biography identifies Dhun as a music documentary directed and produced with Mekaal Hasan and notes that it was featured at the Alchemy Festival at London's Southbank Centre.

BILAL SAMI, PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY | **PROFESSIONAL ARCHIVE**

ETERNAL ECHOES AND THE NIGHT OF SONG

DOCUMENTARY & MUSIC-LEGACY PROJECT

The documentary feature and tribute performance developed with the Aga Khan Museum around the legacy of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, produced by Mekaal Hasan and housed with the museum. The project combines live performance, interviews, archival context, music production and cultural narrative, and is set out in full on the preceding page.

CULTURAL STORYTELLING CAPABILITY

WHY IT MATTERS

Together, Dhun and Eternal Echoes show an ability to contextualise music beyond the stage, documenting artists, traditions, histories and collaborations through audiovisual storytelling.

DOCUMENTARY CREDITS

DHUN	Short-form music documentary with the filmmaker Bilal Sami
FEATURED	Alchemy Festival, Southbank Centre, London, 2017
ETERNAL ECHOES	Documentary feature with the Aga Khan Museum
SUBJECT	The legacy of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan
FEATURING	Michael Brook, producer of Night Song
HOUSED WITH	The Aga Khan Museum

International Cultural Representation

Mekaal Hasan was commissioned to write and arrange the music score for an Urdu-language adaptation of Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew, staged at Shakespeare's Globe in London as part of the Globe to Globe Festival within the London Cultural Olympiad. He directed, composed and performed the music, with an acoustic ensemble playing live on stage alongside the cast.

Published production credits for the Globe staging name Mekaal Hasan as composer. Review coverage of the performance described the live ensemble accompanying the cast with folk tunes and film songs, scoring the romance and conflict scenes and dramatising the on-stage action throughout.

The repertoire developed for the commission was released as Folk and Film Music of Pakistan, giving the project a durable recorded outcome beyond the run itself.

WHAT THIS CREDENTIAL DEMONSTRATES

- Representing Pakistan on a flagship international cultural platform
- Original composition and arrangement for large-scale theatrical production
- Live music direction integrated with a full theatrical cast
- Working inside a major international festival programme
- Presenting Pakistani folk and film repertoire to international audiences
- Converting a live cultural commission into a durable recorded release

PRODUCTION DETAIL

PRODUCTION	The Taming of the Shrew, Urdu adaptation
VENUE	Shakespeare's Globe, London
PROGRAMME	Globe to Globe Festival, Cultural Olympiad
COMPANY	Theatre Wallay, Lahore
ROLE	Music direction, composition and performance
DATES	Commissioned 2011, performed May 2012
RECORDED OUTCOME	Folk and Film Music of Pakistan

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE, PRODUCTION ARCHIVE | DAWN, REVIEW OF THE GLOBE STAGING | FOLK AND FILM MUSIC OF PAKISTAN | PROFESSIONAL ARCHIVE

ORIGINAL MUSIC SERIES & CULTURAL IP

Rivayat

Creator · Curator · Producer

Rivayat is an original music series created by Mekaal Hasan to identify, record and present musicians whose families have carried Pakistan's roots-based musical traditions across generations. It places hereditary, folk and classical practice in a contemporary recorded setting and connects Pakistani musicians with international collaborators.

156	100	22
SONGS RECORDED	MUSICIANS	VOCALISTS

Arab News reported these figures in March 2023 and described the project as spearheaded by Hasan. The coverage also documented collaborators from France, Britain and Russia and the project's intention to give traditional forms contemporary presentation and broader audiences.

WHAT RIVAYAT DEMONSTRATES

- Original music-property creation and long-form series development
- Traditional and hereditary artist discovery
- Cultural and repertoire curation
- Studio recording and performance production
- International musician collaboration
- Artist development and audience-building
- Preservation through active contemporary presentation rather than static archiving

ARAB NEWS, RIVAYAT FEATURE | MEKAAL HASAN, RIVAYAT OVERVIEW



Rivayat series artwork

Talent Development, Judging & Mentorship

Mekaal Hasan's experience as a judge and mentor adds a practical talent-development dimension to his work as a curator. It demonstrates an ability to evaluate musicians, identify potential, communicate artistic feedback and understand performance development.

PAKISTAN SANGEET ICON

INDUS TV · 2008

PRINCIPAL JUDGE

Principal judge across 36 episodes of the national televised talent search.

MOBILINK JAZZ ICON

AAG TV · 2006

JUDGE

Judge across 12 episodes of the televised talent format.

PAKISTAN IDOL

NATIONAL BROADCAST

GUEST JUDGE

Guest judge on Pakistan's national televised talent format.

BEACONHOUSE ICON

INSTITUTIONAL

INVITED JUDGE AND MENTOR

Invited judge and mentor on an institutional talent programme.

RELEVANT TO

- Television and digital talent competitions
- Audition and selection processes
- Music mentorship programmes
- Artist-development initiatives
- Emerging-artist showcases
- Educational and institutional music programmes

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT AS A CONTINUING THEME

The same philosophy runs through I Am Karachi's mentorship component, SoundScape's professional-development work and Rivayat's discovery of lesser-known traditional musicians. Talent development is therefore not a separate television credit but a recurring part of Hasan's cultural practice.

Music Production, Studio Recording, Live & Technical Director

Mekaal Hasan's background as a producer, recording engineer, composer, arranger, musical director and studio professional gives his festival and curatorial work an important technical foundation.

- Programme and repertoire evaluation from a working musician's perspective
- Understanding of live sound, stage requirements and artist technical needs
- Recording and producing live and studio performances
- Arranging and musical direction
- Quality control across performance, recording and broadcast delivery
- Experience working with established and emerging artists

INTERNATIONAL & CROSS-CULTURAL WORK

Hasan's career includes British Council programming, the Aga Khan Museum project, international musicians within Rivayat, Dhun's presentation at Southbank Centre's Alchemy Festival and extensive experience presenting Pakistani music to audiences outside Pakistan.

FRONT OF HOUSE ENGINEERING

Art Langar Festival, Islamabad, 2017

I Am Karachi Music Festival, 2015 and 2017

Music Mela Festival, Islamabad, 2014

National tour, January to October 2011

International concert series, 2011

DIGITAL FIDELITY STUDIOS

Digital Fidelity Studios has been central to Hasan's production career and to projects including Rivayat and the documentary work. This production background means cultural programmes can be conceived not only as live events, but as durable recorded, broadcast and digital assets.







Control room, live room and rehearsal facilities, Digital Fidelity Studios, Lahore

HOW MEKAAL HASAN CAN CONTRIBUTE

Production Tiers

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Overall creative vision, programme architecture, artist strategy, scheduling principles, performance standards and cultural coherence.

CULTURAL / MUSIC CURATOR

Researching, identifying and selecting artists and repertoire across traditional, folk, classical, qawwali, Sufi, contemporary and cross-cultural forms.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Designing concerts, symposiums, masterclasses, community programmes, showcases and multi-stage cultural events.

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Developing the artistic identity and audience experience of a music-led project from concept to execution.

TALENT SHOW JUDGE / MENTOR

Auditions, judging, artist assessment, mentoring, performance development and format consultation.

MUSIC-SERIES CREATOR / PRODUCER

Developing repeatable recorded-performance properties, artist collaborations and cultural music series.

RECORDING & BROADCAST MUSIC PRODUCER

Studio sessions, live recordings, performance capture, music direction and delivery for digital or broadcast use.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR / LIVE PRODUCTION AUDIO HEAD

Sound, artist requirements, production workflows, technical standards and performance quality control.

DOCUMENTARY / CULTURAL MUSIC CONSULTANT

Artist stories, repertoire context, archival direction, interviews, performance and music-led narrative.

THE DIFFERENTIATOR

> *Mekaal Hasan brings together three perspectives that are rarely combined in one role: the practising artist, the cultural curator and the experienced producer. This allows him to understand a music project from its cultural premise and artist selection through to the realities of stage, studio, recording, broadcast and audience experience.*

Media Coverage

BRITISH COUNCIL

SoundScape programme history and confirmation of inaugural co-curation

OPEN REFERENCE

BRITISH COUNCIL

SoundScape Music Masterclass Series

OPEN REFERENCE

ARAB NEWS

Rivayat: traditional musicians, international collaborators and scale of the series

OPEN REFERENCE

DAWN / IMAGES

I Am Karachi 2017, Mekaal Hasan identified as festival curator

OPEN REFERENCE

THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE

I Am Karachi 2015, Mekaal Hasan identified as festival director

OPEN REFERENCE

THE NEWS / INSTEP

I Am Karachi 2015, organising, mentorship and programming

OPEN REFERENCE

THE NEWS / INSTEP

Festival philosophy and community programming

OPEN REFERENCE

DAILY TIMES

I Am Karachi 2017, Curator and Director

OPEN REFERENCE

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

Production archive for The Taming of the Shrew at the Globe

OPEN REFERENCE

DAWN

Review of the Globe staging and the live ensemble on stage

OPEN REFERENCE

BILAL SAMI

Dhun documentary and Alchemy Festival, Southbank Centre reference

OPEN REFERENCE

MEKAAL HASAN

Rivayat and selected professional work

OPEN REFERENCE

MEKAAL HASAN

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR · CULTURAL PROGRAMMER
MUSIC CURATOR · PRODUCER

SCAN FOR ALL LINKS

Contact

EMAIL	mekaalhasan@gmail.com
PHONE / WHATSAPP	+92 321 8493650
STUDIO	Digital Fidelity Studios, 11-B Warris Road, Lahore 54000, Pakistan
WEBSITE	mekaalhasan.com

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