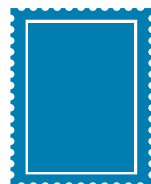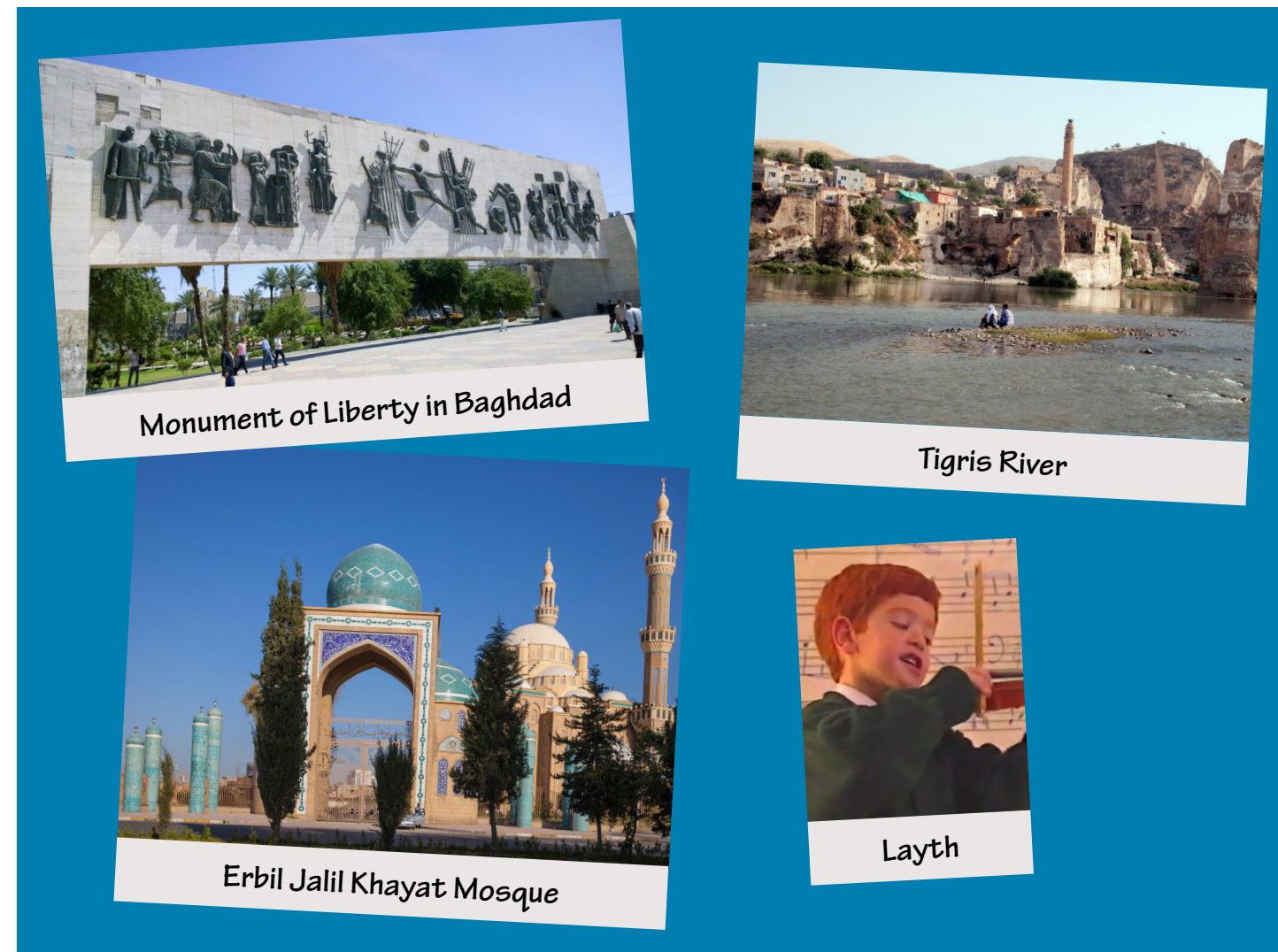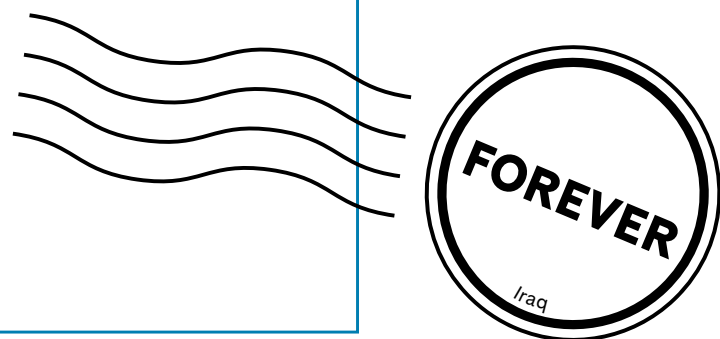# Meet Layth!

Greetings from Baghdad!

Marhaba!

My name is Layth, and I'm a violinist and a singer. I was born in Iraq and raised in Jordan, both countries in the Middle East where people speak Arabic. My name means "Lion" in Arabic, and I have red hair! I'm very excited to teach you about my culture and some of the songs I grew up with.

Salam (peace),

Layth

Musical Explorers
c/o Carnegie Hall
881 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019

FOREVER

Iraq

Monument of Liberty in Baghdad

Tigris River

Erbil Jalil Khayat Mosque

Layth

We asked Layth …

What are some of your earliest musical memories?

My mom is a violinist, and my dad is a pianist. When I was growing up, they always hosted concerts at our house. I loved it when their musician friends would come over and play music through the night! I started playing violin when I was four. I had a strict practice schedule, and by the time I was 10, I played a solo with an orchestra for the Jordanian royal family.

What is your favorite holiday?

When I was little, the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr was my absolute favorite! It comes at the end of Ramadan, a month where we fast every day from sunrise to sundown. We would get new clothes and for two or three days, we would celebrate and feast with our friends and family.

What else do you want people to know about you?

People always think I'm Irish or Scottish because I have red hair, and they think that Arab people have dark hair. But many people don't know that the first people with red hair came from the Middle East! It always reminds me that you can't judge someone by the way they look.