

AVID Online presents the fourth episode of the exciting new series Across Cultures: Sonic Journeys, and extraordinary expedition beyond cultural borders.

Music is an ancient gesture of expressing our deepest thoughts, it showcases astonishing information of cultural demography. Individual genre of music showcases intimate regional values, yet music transmutes beyond geographical, social and political borders. Music is an integrated unification of expressions that elevates our cultural psyche.

Indian Music Experience Museum, Furtados, Teamwork Arts, Royal Opera House, Mumbai, and Avid Learning presents the fourth episode of **Across Cultures: Sonic Journeys**, which intends to look at musical transverse of ideas and traditions through the lenses of individuals practising and promoting Indian music on a global tenet.

We will be in conversation with, *Professor of Music and Sardarni Harbans Kaur Chair in Sikh Musicology at Hofstra University (NY), Dr Francesca Cassio*), *Artistic Director, Darbar Festival Sandeep Virdee*, Founder of Amarrass Records **Ashutosh Sharma**, *Vocalist, Composer and Producer, Aditi Ramesh*. The session will be moderated by *Producer, Teamwork Arts Avik Roy*.

The speakers will immerse into their individual genres of research spanning from study of music in all cultures and historical periods of Indian classical musical traditions and folk music to fusion practices between disparate art forms. Together they will shed light on creating International labels that archive folk musical traditions and blending genres of different musical practices across the globe.

Join us for this extraordinary expedition beyond cultural borders.

When: Saturday, 4th December, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM (IST)

RSVP: www.avidlearning.in

Press Email: Ayesha Dadachanji on ayeshah.avid@gmail.com

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The fourth edition of the ongoing lecture demonstration series, **Across Cultures: Sonic Journeys** aims to look at musical transverse of ideas and traditions, through the lenses of individuals practising and promoting Indian Music on a global tenet.

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Photo Credit: Anil Thakernani
Professor of Music and
Sardarni Harbans Kaur Chair
in Sikh Musicology at
Hofstra University (NY)
Dr. Francesca Cassio



Vocalist,
Composer
and Producer
Aditi Ramesh



Photo Credit: Gurbans Singhania
Founder,
Amarrass Records
Ashutosh Sharma



Artistic Director,
Darbar Festival
Sandeep Virdee OBE



Producer,
Teamwork Arts
Avik Roy

MODERATOR

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About the Series:

What makes the fusion of such disparate music forms like Indian and Western classical music even conceivable? Music is a language deeper than words. While Indian classical music can be improvised as desired by the performer, the Western counterpart is strictly composed like a straight cut diamond. Merging of two gives birth to a new form of fusion music that synthesizes the melodies from the Indian classical oeuvre with the harmonies from the Western classical compositions. The two are contradictory in spirit, yet when combined, they stir us. The series will look at different paradigms of extraordinary exchange of culture and traditions, where we will try and answer the question - Is fusion a scaffolding built to support the existing structure of an art, in a way glorifying it? Or is it a framework crafted to dilute, and eventually dissolve an art that the posterity wouldn't even know existed?

About Speakers

Dr. Francesca Cassio is Professor of Music at Hofstra University (NY) and since 2011 holds the Sardarni Harbans Kaur Chair in Sikh Musicology, the first academic position of its kind in the United States. She completed M.A. and PhD in Ethnomusicology from the University 'La Sapienza' of Rome, in affiliation with the Benares Hindu University. Dr. Cassio has conducted extensive research in India, where she lived for several years and was trained in vocal music by renowned musicians such as Padmabhshan Ustad Rahim Fahimuddin Khan Dagar, Pandit Ritwik Sanyal, and Padmabhshan Smt. Girija Devi. Senior disciple of Bhai Baldeep Singh, the 13th generation exponent of the Gurbani kirtan Parampara. Dr. Cassio specialized on the hymns from the Sikh Scripture. She has also studied Rabindra Sangit under the guidance of Smt. Pramita Mallik and Dr. Reba Som, for an album project on 18 Tagore songs transcribed for voice and piano by the French musicologist Alain Daniélou (published by Visva Bharati University in 2009). Prior to joining Hofstra, Dr. Cassio was lecturer of Ethnomusicology and Indian vocal music at the University of Trento, Conservatory of Vicenza, Conservatory of Adria (Italy), and Visiting Professor at Visva Bharati University (Santiniketan, India). Dr. Cassio is the author of a monograph on dhrupad and is currently working on a volume that explores the history and practice of Gurbani kirtan. Her essays are published in edited volumes and international academic journals, and her research interests cover several areas in the field of South Asian music, ranging from music history to music and gender, music of underrepresented traditions, postcolonial and decolonial studies. Accomplished dhrupad singer and kirtaniya, Dr. Cassio has lectured and performed in India, Bangladesh, Europe and the USA.

Aditi Ramesh is a jazz/blues/r&b/Carnatic vocalist, songwriter, bandleader and producer. She is known for her strong hold on tonal modulations and her ability to mix classical Carnatic music with jazz. Formerly a corporate lawyer, her musicality has experienced exponential growth since she began playing music professionally in 2017. She's since played at various festivals in India like Nh7 Weekender, Vh1 Supersonic and Echoes of Earth Festival and has performed in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Moscow and Japan. Apart from performing live she also teaches music and composes for independent and ad films.

Sandeep Virdee OBE

Abandoning a successful career in accountancy, Sandeep curated his first Indian classical musical festival in honour of his late father, Bhai Gurmit Singh Ji Virdee, in 2006 and has never looked back since. He is currently Artistic Director for Darbar and can often be found, headphones on, listening to up and coming artists on YouTube.

Ashutosh Sharma

12 years ago, in 2009, Ashutosh Sharma gave in to his love for music and launched Amarrass Records, an independent label, to front-line folk music and musicians. Since then Amarrass Records has released 20 albums, including field recordings of world-class folk musicians in their homes and villages. Several Amarrass albums have received 5-star reviews by Songlines, UK. The label, Amarrass Records, is also at the forefront of Vinyl revival with the 1st and only Vinyl cutting facility in India. 5 of its albums are available in Long Playing Records that have been cut personally by Ashutosh and his partner, Ankur Malhotra by hand at their small workshop in, on a machine they bought. The label produced close to 50 shows at some of Delhi's historic and heritage venues, including Lodi Gardens and Sunder Nursery. As a DIY label, Ashutosh handles recording, mixing, mastering, design, vinyl production, A & R, producing shows. He is a vinyl collector and prefers listening to analog music. Ashutosh Sharma has been working since the age of 19, when he started Sadhana Travel Services in 1994 with the USP of handling last-minute travel for news reporters and photographers covering real time news stories, including the

Afghan War, Iraqi invasion, Tsunami, earthquakes, etc, and is now linking the two and plans to launch 'Music Tours' by the end of this year!!

Avik Roy is a musician, actor, composer, and producer at Teamwork Arts in New Delhi. While pursuing his undergraduate degree at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, Roy pursued theatre and music, and was focused on using performance to communicate complexities surrounding certain socio-political issues, often delving into topics such as the Naxalite movement and farmer suicides in India. After playing in a few jazz recitals and college concerts, he staged his first original musical theatre production in May 2013, as part of his final thesis at Hampshire College. On his return to India later that year, he briefly worked with the Planning Commission before working with the Yuva Ekta Foundation on Juvenile Justice. Roy also simultaneously taught the drums at the Salaam Baalak Trust (a children's home housing and schooling orphaned children), and a couple of his students have now gone on to pursue music full time. After continuing his pursuit of the drums studying under Rueben Narain at One World College of Music and playing with a few bands, Roy launched his solo music project under the name Purple Pendant, releasing his first original music video titled 'Gotta Say the News' in April 2019. He is also currently part of the musical troupe Lilanoor Ensemble, for which he plays percussion and guitar, alongside Advaita lead vocalist Chayan Adhikari, fellow Purple Pendant member & vocalist Bhanu Sharma, and French Soprano singer & actor Harmonie Deschamps. Roy joined Teamwork Arts in 2015 and currently is the head of the Art Matters Project & Jazz India Circuit, which produces multiple Jazz festivals across the country with the flagship edition in Goa, along with having worked on several projects and festivals in India, the UK, and USA.

Partner Information

IME

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/126091030783368/>

Instagram : https://instagram.com/indianmusicexperience?utm_medium=copy_link

Twitter : https://mobile.twitter.com/ime_bangalore

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/c/IndianMusicExperience>

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Watch all past AVID Online episodes on our dedicated YouTube Playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYt7Q44R5xkd4dRefvV3nFloOHEePgLAZ>

Royal Opera House, Mumbai

Website: <https://www.royaloperahouse.in/>

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

Instagram: @mumbaiopera

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mumbaiopera>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/royaloperahousemumbai>

Furtados

Website: <http://furtadosonline.com/>

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

Instagram: @furtadosmusic

Teamwork Arts

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/teamworkarts/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/teamworkarts>

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

About Partners

The Indian Music Experience (IME) is India's only interactive music museum. The IME is an initiative of the non-profit Indian Music Experience Trust, supported by the Brigade Group. The vision of the museum is to increase the understanding and appreciation of the diversity of Indian music, from the traditional to the contemporary through exhibits, performances and learning activities. It features a Sound Garden with 10 playable musical sculptures, Exhibit Galleries with musical instruments, storyboards, touchscreens, mini-theatres, and audio-video kiosks, a Learning Centre with regular classes and workshops, and much more. In addition to museum visits, an event calendar of regular concerts, storytelling for children, film screenings, workshops, and seminars, makes the IME a must-visit destination for culture vultures and music aficionados.

Furtados established in 1865, Furtados has always been a leader in the field of Western music education and knowledge in India. From musical instruments, accessories to print music and digital equipment, we have a complete spectrum of musical instruments in the Western and Indian categories.

Furtados has grown into a household name in the music business and are spread across Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Chandigarh, Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Panjim and Margao in Goa. With a growing retail network (17 showrooms) and over 350 dealer outlets, Furtados holds a record number of international dealerships for top-of-the-line brands in music. You can access wide range of products of Furtados, at its retail showrooms or on furtadosonline.com.

Teamwork Arts

The Royal Opera House, Mumbai is widely touted as Mumbai's Cultural Crown Jewel and India's only surviving Opera House. The original idea for the space was conceived of in 1908, inaugurated in 1911 by King George V, and eventually completed in 1916. The design incorporated a blend of European and Indian detailing. The space became a cinema in later years before falling into disrepair and shutting by the 1990s. Fittingly, the space has been owned by the Royal Family of Gondal since 1952 and was eventually restored by conservation architect, Abha Narain Lambah under the leadership of His Highness, Maharaja Shri Jyotendrasinhji of Gondal.

The Royal Opera House Mumbai, now one of the last remaining Baroque structures in the city, reopened after 23 years in October 2016. The building was included on the 2012 World Monuments Watch to raise awareness about its history and significance, and support preservation efforts. The building has since been recognized with an Award of Merit in the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

The restored facilities feature a 575-seater 3-level auditorium with an orchestra pit and state of the art technological upgradations, including acoustics, stagecraft, lighting and air-conditioning, alongside retaining the old-world charm of the proscenium stage, the royal boxes and the magnificent regal chandeliers. Some more enhancements to the venue include a motorized screen, co-axial ceiling speaker system, Four-zone volume control and all round wifi access. Today, it stands as a key performance and creative hub in the city's cultural landscape, while being a premier heritage landmark.

Website: <https://www.royaloperahouse.in/>

Facebook: [MumbaiOpera](#) | Twitter: [@MumbaiOpera](#) | Instagram: [@mumbaiopera](#) | YouTube: [Royal Opera House, Mumbai](#)

Avid Learning, the cultural philanthropy arm of the Essar Group founded in 2009 has, over the past decade, grown into one of Mumbai's leading public programming platforms and is firmly entrenched in the country's wider cultural ecosystem. Our thoughtfully curated and diverse events embrace the spirit of collaboration to bring together the best of Indian and international writers, artists, intellectuals, cultural experts, policymakers and industry leaders across Visual Art, Literature, Culture and Heritage, Education, Design & Technology and the Performing Arts through engaging and dynamic formats like panel discussions, workshops & master classes, roundtables, lecture demonstrations, festival platforms, symposiums & conferences, multidisciplinary performances and walkthroughs. To date, AVID has conducted over **1400** programs and connected with more than **150,000+** individuals, a widely eclectic group of life-long learners including students, patrons, practitioners, influencers, thought leaders and cultural & creative enthusiasts in Mumbai, Delhi, Jaipur, Bangalore, Goa and Gujarat. We have also made our mark internationally, with events and collaborations in Dubai and New York. We regularly collaborate and partner with institutions, organizations and initiatives like the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), (CSMVS) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), one of the apex bodies that impact cultural policy and the creative sector as a whole. We have been at the helm of programming at

the Royal Opera House, Mumbai India's only surviving Opera House since its reopening in 2016. We believe in the importance of arts for social change and we regularly offer our support and platforms for Social Advocacy. In April 2020, we launched AVID Online, an online further learning campaign on our social media platforms for our followers to engage with a range of varied topics across the breadth of the arts. Our eclectic faculty of experts, thought leaders, practitioners and innovators continue to share their learnings, expertise and knowledge on our social media platforms with tailored content featured weekly for AVID's online community and beyond. In collaboration with long-term and new partners, we have since dimensionalised the campaign by re-introducing our existing offline formats and IPs and enhancing them for digital engagement. We have taken our content live with engaging masterclasses and virtual panel discussions and also built robust tangential campaigns and series in support of worthy causes and highlighting topical issues.

AVID continues to give truth to our belief that **#LearningNeverStops**

Stay tuned to our social media channels to know more about upcoming programs on AVID Online and remember #LearningNeverStops

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