

**A one-of-a-kind fusion performance of multilingual street style rap combined with classical Carnatic music and Maharashtrian Dhol-Tasha.**

**For Immediate Release**

**Royal Opera House, Mumbai** in collaboration with **Avid Learning** presents, **Ta Dhom Project by Viveick Rajagopalan feat. The Dhols of Maharashtra** - premiering for the first time on our stage!

Ta Dhom Project fuses together *Konnakol*, a unique vocal percussion derived from the sounds of the *Mridangam* and the world of rap, bringing the two worlds together in a unique sound creating a harmony in duality. Adding to the percussive flavour are The Dhols of Maharashtra, bringing in the bold regional festiveness with their rhythmic beats creating a unique collaboration that respects each other's cultural origins while keeping the ethnicity of the sound, raw, bold, and intact.

The evening is headlined by **Viveick Rajagopalan** on *Mridangam, Percussions and Abelton* with a trio of rappers **MC Dehaati a.k.a Akash Pandey (Bhojpuri)**, **MC Artslord a.k.a Kalaivanan Kannan (Tamil)** and **MC Khoj a.k.a Ganesh Sonkamble (Marathi & Hindi)** accompanied by **Sayar Mitra** on *Bass* and **Joshua Fernandes** on *Keyboard*. The sound is engineered by **Sigmund Quadros**.

Infusing fresh striking energy with their rhythmic beats to this unique ensemble are the Dhols of Maharashtra featuring **Swarangi Savdekar & Yamini Khamkar** on *Dhols* with **Pranav Dixit & Guarang Dalvi** on *Taasha/Jhaanj*.

Music has no borders. There is power in music and rhythm that unites us all, irrespective of the language we speak, our religious beliefs, economic status, class or other divisions. The Ta Dhom Project brings together two worlds, two ideas, and two cultures, creating a unique collaboration that respects each other's cultural origins while creating an identity of its own. Talking about the idea, Rajagopalan says, "Konakkol, the vocal percussion form, has been around forever. I used to use it to make rappers understand beats better".

The performance features a jugalbandi between three rappers originating from Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra juxtaposing multi-lingual street rap with Carnatic classical vocal percussion Konakkol and a Mridangam along with the infectious beating energy of Dhol-Tasha.

All the artistes will come together at the end of the evening to perform an invigorating finale.

This would be the second time Viveick brings his powerhouse Ta Dhom Project to our stage. The first time, in January 2020, he presented *Mridangamela* - a fusion of Carnatic and Contemporary music performance showcasing a unique representation of Mridangam in both traditional and contemporary treatments. After being selected at **Womex '18** as one of the showcase artists in the world, they have performed at **WOMAD, SHAMBALA** and **OSLO MELA 2019**. In 2022 after the release of their new single "*Get Up and Dance*", they performed at several festivals in India as part of their tour.

Ta Dhom Project feat. The Dhols of Maharashtra is the third edition of fusion music concert at the Royal Opera House, Mumbai; where we present the sounds of percussion with a contemporary twist creating a multi-genre cultural melange.

The first edition celebrated the fusion of Indian Classical soulful symphonies of Mediterranean jazz, where musicians from Indian and Italy took us on a sonic journey like never before. In the second edition, we saw Carnatic music being infused with infectious rhythms of Jazz.

At The Royal Opera House, Mumbai, we recognize the importance of leveraging our stage to showcase the beauty, skill and timelessness of our classical music genres and instruments while also exposing our audiences to multidisciplinary cross-genre experiences and fusion collaborations. This multidisciplinary evening is representative of our vision of blurring the boundaries between the traditional and the contemporary and bridging the gap between our rich past and cutting-edge future.

Join us for a one-of-a-kind fusion performance exploring the sounds of percussion with a contemporary twist.

**Where:** Royal Opera House, Mumbai

**When:** Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

**Tickets:** [www.insider.in](http://www.insider.in) (Rs. 299 onwards)

**Press:** [ayeshah.avid@gmail.com](mailto:ayeshah.avid@gmail.com) / [dhwani.avid@gmail.com](mailto:dhwani.avid@gmail.com)