

PRESS RELEASE

If the roots of blues and soul have long inspired great names in music history, the legends of funk have also rubbed shoulders with the inevitable pop-rock.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to witness an exciting, fresh, fun, and full-of-energy performance by some of the renowned jazz musicians in India!

Royal Opera House Mumbai, in collaboration with **Avid Learning, Sound.com** and **Furtados** presents **Blast From The Past** – an evening of unparalleled groove and party music featuring a top-notch line-up of musicians who will add their mix of a few contemporary tunes that draw their lineage from the Funkmasters of yesteryears.

The evening will feature a unique never-before-performed set lead by world-renowned *Producer, Composer, and Drummer* **Ranjit Barot** and incredible *Keyboardist* **Zubin Balaporia**. The legendary *Composer, Producer, Keyboardist, and Singer* **Louiz Banks** will join them for a special number! The artists will be recreating the original compositions originally crafted by legendary musicians from the 70s, 80s and the 90s. The virtuoso's will be accompanied on stage by **Mallika Barot, Aria Nanji** and **Azamaan Huyvoy** on *Vocals*, **Rickraj** on *Guitar*, **Titu** on *Percussion*, **Avishek Dey** on *Bass*, **Enrico and Jarryd Rodrigues** on Saxophone. Their individual styles equally position themselves within the legacy of the legends of retro funk and pop while pushing the envelope of what collaborative music truly can be.

The Royal Opera House, Mumbai, with its rich history and grandeur, constantly strives to present the classic, diverse, and contemporary genres attracting music lovers of all ages and backgrounds by bringing in leading musicians, maestros, composers, conductors, vocalists, and virtuosos from around the country and across the globe to the maximum city! Being India's only surviving Opera House, it recognizes the importance of leveraging the stage to showcase the eternal beauty and skill of our traditional performing arts while also exposing the audiences to multidisciplinary cross-genre fusions and collaborations.

This would be the third time we have the world's leading drummer - Ranjit Barot (**UnCommon, February 2020 and Chingari, June 2023**) on our stage and for a second time with the versatile keyboardist Zubin Balaporia (**Rags and Rhythms, April 2019**). These virtuosos come together to seamlessly blend sounds from the yesteryears and showcase a powerful presentation of the funk and pop genre of music!

Join us with an eclectic line-up of musicians for an electric and unforgettable evening of foot-tapping music.

When: Thursday, 4th April 2024 | 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Where: Royal Opera House, Mumbai

Tickets: insider.in (Rs. 399 onwards)

Press: Ayeshah Dadachanji (ayeshah.avid@gmail.com)

Artist Bios:

Ranjit Barot is today on the forefront of both worlds, the mainstream popular Indian / World music and Jazz Fusion genres. He is the Musical Director for all of Oscar winning composer, A.R.Rahman's Live Concerts and holds the coveted 'throne' as Drummer for world renowned Guitar legend John McLaughlin & The 4th Dimension band. Born into a family steeped in Indian classical music and dance, melody and rhythm has always been an integral part of Ranjit's life, and he started playing at the age of 12, encouraged by his mother, the legendary Kathak dancer, Sitara Devi. His early career saw performances with Louis Banks & the Jazz Yatra Sextet, the great Pandit Ravi Shankar, the maestros, (late) Don Cherry & (late) Charlie Mariano. His unique approach to drumming has seen collaborations with Maestro Zakir Hussain, including a 'Masters of Percussion' US Tour in 2004., Carnatic classical legends, Maestro U. Srinivas and Guru L. Subramaniam, Hindustani slide guitar master exponent, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, sarangi legend Ustad Sultan Khan Sahab, ghattam maestro Pandit 'Vikku' Vinayakaram, Khanjira exponent Selva Ganesh, among many other noted artists. His work / performances with the Western greats have included unique collaborations with renowned artists such as Bill Evans, Scott Kinsey, Jonas Helborg, Ayden Esen, and Tim Garland. Ranjit has

also had a long career in composition and music production, working out of his own state-of-the-art studio facility, in Mumbai, India. Combined with his strong roots in the Indian classical tradition and his world-view of music gave him a unique perspective on the Indian Film genre. His career spans projects over the last almost 4 decades as a featured drummer and arranger for Indian Film Industry erstwhile giants such as R.D. Burman, Lakshmikant - Pyaarelal right up to A.R. Rahman's greatest work through the years, including the Grammy & Oscar nominated '127 Hours' and continues to bring his unique personality to this genre of music. His recognition as a Music Composer and Arranger for Album Projects and Feature Films has earned him the Filmfare Award for his score in 'Aks' (2001) and more recently his work in 'Shaitan' swept all 3 major Indian awards, in the year 2011.

Zubin Balaporia is a composer/performer based in Mumbai. He started playing the piano at the age of six and has never looked back. Since 1988 he has produced music and been involved in sound design for Television and Radio commercials as well as Corporate Films for many major international brands. He has worked as Musical Director for musical theatre productions such as The Sound Of Music, My Fair Lady, Jesus Christ Superstar and I Believe as well as for several major documentary films. Zubin has also been Music Director and composed the Background Score for a few feature films namely, DEV, Honeymoon Travels, Lafangey Parindey and Fireflies. For the last twenty years Zubin has performed, toured and recorded with the well established Indian rock band, Indus Creed, formerly known as Rock Machine. The band has the distinction of giving the face of Indian rock international exposure and recognition. He has recorded, arranged, performed and co-produced all four of the Rock Machine/Indus Creed's albums – Rock 'n' Roll Renegade, The Second Coming, Indus Creed and most recently Evolve. Indus Creed has toured the length and breadth of India, and have performed in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Singapore, and represented the country at the Festival of India in the former Soviet Union. They have performed at other major festivals including the Peter Gabriel sponsored Womad festival held in the United Kingdom at Reading as well as at some major clubs in the United Kingdom & United States of America. Indus Creed has opened performances for international bands like Bon Jovi and Europe as well as for guitar maestro Carlos Santana. They've also performed with Slash, guitarist for Guns 'n' Roses and alongside British rock band, Uriah Heap and won the MTV Asian Video Music Award, Channel V Best Indian Band Award, the Indian Recording Arts Academy's and Vh1 Music Channel's Hall of Fame Awards. In 2012, Zubin won the Rolling Stones/Jack Daniels award for Best Keyboardist. He is currently teaching "Scoring to Picture" at The True School of Music.