

## **For Immediate Release**

Fusion is a marriage of distinct ideas. It is a creation of mutual inquiry between diverse cultures blending together their unique elements to give a soothing symphony.

**Indian Music Experience Museum, Furtados, Royal Opera House, Mumbai, and Avid Learning** present **Across Cultures: The Universal Language of Music**, the third edition of the ongoing lecture demonstration series, Across Cultures, aims to examine the influences and potential of blending disparate art forms to create a new, artistically curated, holistic experience.

We will be in conversation with *Sarod Maestros* **Amaan Ali Bangash** and **Ayaan Ali Bangash** with *Multiple Grammy Award Winner, Classical Guitarist* **Sharon Isbin**. The session will be moderated by *Music Journalist* **Amit Gurbaxani**.

The speakers will delve into their musical world, to explore and share unique treasures from their artistic traditions across their ongoing collaborations and album 'Strings for Peace', as well as finding common ground in melodic ragas and harmonic scales. The panel will also shed light on the many interesting similarities and differences in their culture and talk about the extraordinary blend created by combining the Sarod and Guitar, achieving cross fertilization of musical traditions.

Join us for this extraordinary cross-cultural exchange, Across Cultures: Universal Language of Music, that unveils a surprising harmony between ragas and medieval modes of music.

**When: Wednesday, 10th November 2021**

**RSVP: [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)**

**Press Email: Ayeshah Dadachanji on [ayeshah.avid@gmail.com](mailto:ayeshah.avid@gmail.com)**



Discover the extraordinary fusion between the sounds of the Sarod and Guitar, together they create a unique symphony.

The next edition of the ongoing 3-part lecture demonstration series, **Across Cultures**, aims to examine the influences and potential of blending disparate art forms to create a new, artistically curated, holistic experience. The speakers will delve into their musical world, to explore and share unique treasures from their artistic traditions across their ongoing collaborations and album 'Strings for Peace'.

Join us for this extraordinary cross-cultural exchange, **Across Cultures: Universal Language of Music**, that unveils a surprising harmony between melodic ragas and medieval modes of music.

#AVIDONLINE **LIVE**

			
Sarod Maestro <b>Amaan Ali Bangash</b>	Sarod Maestro <b>Ayaan Ali Bangash</b>	Multiple Grammy Award Winner, Classical Guitarist <b>Sharon Isbin</b>	Music Journalist <b>Amit Gurbaxani</b>

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER '21**  
TIME: **6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (IST)**  
RSVP: **www.avidlearning.in**



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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

## **Amaan and Ayaan Ali Bangash**

Cultural and musical traditions gives life and purpose to the work they bring to the stage. By asking audiences to listen from the heart, Sarod virtuosos Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash breakthrough the troublesome polarities of continuity and change, tradition and innovation. In their sound we encounter technical assuredness bolstered by elegant lyricism and joy-filled dynamism. It is music forged from a unique artistic vision that rests upon a legacy seven generations deep and includes their revered father and grandfather, Amjad Ali Khan and Haafiz Ali Khan. Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash represent the 7th generation of a musical lineage, as sons and disciples of the sarod icon, Amjad Ali Khan. With him they have performed across the globe, including Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Smithsonian, and WOMAD festivals in many continents.

They have also collaborated with guitarist Derek Trucks, of the Allman Brothers Band, Guitarist Sharon Isbin, Chicago Philharmonic orchestra, Avignon symphony orchestra among others, and established themselves as a duo, carrying forward their musical legacy in sync with both tradition and contemporary times. They performed at the Nobel Peace Prize Concert 2014 in Oslo and recently won the Gold Medal at the Global Music Awards in LA for their new album Peace Worshippers. More recently, they performed their father's Concerto Samaagam with New Jersey Symphony Orchestra with Conductor Xian Zhang, Moscow State Philharmonic Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Bronx Arts Ensemble. The UNDay Concert 2018 featured Sarod virtuoso Amjad Ali Khan, Amaan Ali Bangash, Ayaan Ali Bangash and the Refugee Orchestra Project conducted by Lidiya Yankovskaya, Conductor themed on "Traditions of Peace and Non-violence" in the presence of António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations.

In 2020, STRINGS FOR PEACE: Premieres for Guitar & Sarod released on Zoho Music. Steeped in the tradition Indian classical music with Sarod master Amjad Ali Khan, his virtuoso sons Amaan and Ayaan Ali Bangash, and guitarist Sharon Isbin. The recording debuted at number 3 on the Amazon Hot New Releases/World Music bestseller list and rose to number 2 in its first week. Amaan Ali Bangash & Ayaan Ali Bangash joined Gwen Stefani, Jon Bon Jovi for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductee and multi-GRAMMY Award winning musician Joe Walsh's Vetsaid Charity Concert in December 2020. Amaan and Ayaan joined together father Amjad Ali Khan with Joe Walsh for a 3 song EP named 'Prayers' as a tribute to doctors, frontline workers and for everyone who is going through these trying times. They are joined by several iconic Los Angeles-based musicians; drummers Stewart Copeland (of the Police) and Jim Keltner, bassists Nathan East, Leland Sklar and Abe Laboriel Sr., keyboardist Ed Roth, guitarists Davey Johnstone (Elton John's longtime lead guitarist) and multi-instrumentalist Joe Vitale.

## **Sharon Isbin**

Acclaimed as "the pre-eminent guitarist of our time," multiple Grammy winner **Sharon Isbin** has been a soloist with over 200 orchestras, made 35 recordings, and given sold-out performances in the world's finest halls. Winner of the Toronto, Madrid and Munich ARD Competitions, Germany's Echo Klassik, Guitar Player's Best Classical Guitarist awards, and Musical America's 2020 Instrumentalist of

the Year, she performed in Scorsese's Oscar-winning-The Departed, the White House by invitation of President Obama, and as the only classical artist in the 2010 Grammy Awards. Strings for Peace with Amjad Ali Khan and Affinity were named Best Albums of 2020, and the award-winning documentary Sharon Isbin: Troubadour has been seen by millions. Her Grammy-winning Journey to the New World with Joan Baez spent 63 weeks on top Billboard charts, and her disc with the New York Philharmonic received a Latin Grammy nomination. She has premiered over 80 works written for her, and is the founding director of guitar departments at The Juilliard School and Aspen Music Festival.

[www.sharonisbin.com](http://www.sharonisbin.com)

### **Amit Gurbaxani.**

Amit Gurbaxani is a music journalist who specialises in writing about business trends in the Indian music industry and the workings of its independent scene. Over the last two decades, his work has been published in a variety of Indian and international publications such as *Billboard*, *Firstpost*, *India Today*, *Music Ally*, *Scroll* and *The Guardian*.

### Partner Information

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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/>

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## 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.

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You can access Furtados' wide range of products at its retail showrooms or on [furtadosonline.com](http://furtadosonline.com).

**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, organisations 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 programmes on AVID Online and remember **#LearningNeverStops**

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