

## A multimedia evening celebrating Narrative Art, Dance and Music at the Royal Opera House Mumbai

### **For Immediate Release**

Join us for **In Silence the Secret Speaks** an inter-disciplinary narrative performance piece at the **Royal Opera House, Mumbai.**

*Details of the event are as below:*

Conceptualised by *Artist Seema Kohli*, this layered evening, will entail a site-specific immersive experience engaging with the artist's interior landscape, while exploring her intimate relationship with contemporary philosophy, myths and oral traditions. This narrative performance has evolved from a painting by Seema, which organically transcended into verbal form through poetry.

*Read more about the philosophy and inspiration behind this intriguing performance below:*

***In Silence the Secret Speaks** is the poetic narration of eternal existence, expressed in three motifs of the Poet, who is the narrator; who is Seema, the artist and hence the creator who lays down the bricks to the mystical ways of the word and image. The musician, who activates the rhythm of life, and the dancer, the spirit that moves within us; within everything in the universe. A universe is created in the confluence of these three forms, in synergy with each other in thought, expression and universal engagement – a witness to the cycles of time. The seed of this narrative performance evolved from the imagery of a painting by the artist, which organically transcended into verbal form through poetry. At the core of the performance is the symbolism of constant creation and evolution, bringing together influences of ancient and modern Indian traditions and the artist's own spiritual quest in the expressions of her art.*

*Iterations of this piece have been performed at NGMA Bangalore, Park Hyatt Chennai, WuWei Sanctuary in Bali, and Davis, Harvard and Buffalo Universities in the US.*

Supporting the artist's narrative, acclaimed practitioners from various disciplines bring together a poetry/spoken word performance, woven intimately with movement and music. **Sahil Vasudeva**

is a classically trained pianist who trained at Denison University, Ohio. **Nawa Lanzilotti** is a Hawaiian-American cellist and composer who studied Western classical cello with Alan Harris, at Eastman School of Music, NY. **Lokesh Bhardwaj** is a Bharatnatyam dancer and recipient of the prestigious Charles Wallace scholarship. **Shruthi Vishwanath** is a musician and composer - trained extensively in Carnatic music exploring the intersections of classical and folk.

A specially curated selection of auxiliary art by the artist will be on display around the venue.

Do not miss this evening showcasing a unique fusion of poetry, philosophy and the visual and performing arts.

**Where:** Royal Opera House, Mama Parmanand Marg, Mumbai - 400 004

**When:** Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 | 6:00 PM – 6.30 PM - Registrations and Refreshments | 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM –Live Performances

**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in) / [avidlearning@essarservices.co.in](mailto:avidlearning@essarservices.co.in) / +919769937710; prior registration required

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IN SILENCE  
THE SECRET SPEAKS

An Inter-disciplinary Narrative Performance  
by Seema Kohli



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## About the Artist

**Seema Kohli** has created her own niche in the world of contemporary art since the past 35 years. Her creative repertoire is eclectic, encompassing a wide range of mediums ranging from painting, murals, experiential installation performances, films to installations, sculptures and each a unique expression of her style. With over 30 solo shows, including Venice, Brussels, Melbourne, London, NY, Dubai, Singapore Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore She has participated in International Biennales (Venice, Shanghai, India), Art fairs (Hong Kong, Basel, Beijing, Madrid, India) She has had interactive session and experiential performances at Wu Wei Wisdom Sanctuary Bali 2016 among many other of her ever growing expansive portfolio.

## About the Musicians

**Sahil Vasudeva** is a classically trained pianist based in New Delhi. He studied piano under Dr. Nelson Harper at Denison University, Ohio (2004-2008). He was selected from a national pool of pianists to perform at the Young Talent Concert Series at NCPA, Mumbai (June 2015) and is artist-in-residence at Vana Retreats, Dehradun. He is currently continuing his training and studies at the Delhi School of Music under Director, John Raphael. His production The Un-Recital engages in classical/contemporary piano and explores its relationship with theatre, photography,

film, light and sound design. Currently, the performance includes work by Rachmaninov, Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Debussy, Schumann, Satie, in addition to his own compositions. It also features collaborations with photographers, Sohrab Hura and Igor Posner. He has performed in venues across the country and typically in venues that would be considered unconventional for classical piano. He has performed at NCPA Mumbai, Institute of Cervantes (Delhi), Exhibit 320, India International Centre, Alliance Francais, Piano Man Jazz Club, Depot 29/48, Australian Embassy, NGMA Bangalore, Bandra Base, Coral Studios (Bombay), Oddbird Theatre, TIFA (Pune), to name a few. He has also composed for independent film, documentary, TV commercials, art installation and performance art. Select collaborative work has been showcased in Budapest, Kala Ghoda FilmFestival, Kochi Biennale, India Art Fair, National Gallery of Modern Art (Bangalore) in collaboration with artist and painter, Seema Kohli.

Sahil is deeply concerned with the accessibility, relevance, and exclusivity of classical piano and lack of the instruments sound - a concern he attempts to address through his performance style. Sahil is one of the few local musicians performing western classical music and solo piano work in India. He wishes to revive the dying art of solo piano performance, share the depth and his passion for classical composition.

**Nawa Lanzilotti** is a Hawaiian-American cellist and composer based in New Delhi, India. She studied Western classical cello first in her hometown of Honolulu, Hawaii before continuing in Rochester, NY with Alan Harris, cello professor at Eastman School of Music. There she also attained her Master's in Ethnomusicology in 2012. From 2013-2015 Nawa held a fellowship with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to study Hindustani classical music on Indian cello in New Delhi and continues her studies independently in Mumbai and Delhi. From 2014-2015 Nawa developed a general music curriculum grounded in Indian classical music fundamentals for elementary, middle, and high school children as Teaching Fellow for Delhi-based NGO Shubhendra and Saskia Rao Foundation. Nawa is also the founder of PULSE, an international music collective dedicated to experimental collaborations uniting music and movement. PULSE conducted workshops throughout Northeast India in 2016 and since then Nawa has performed multiple collaborations with the artists she met there. Nawa is currently co-directing PULSE's current project "I am + : Dance Theater on HIV in India," a collaboration with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative uniting public health and arts to take place in New Delhi in May 2018.

### **About the Dancer**

**Lokesh Bhardwaj** is one of the finest young male Bharatanayam dancers in India today. With a commanding stage presence, Lokesh is a very sensitive, intelligent and an athletic performer with superb grasp of technique as well as musicality. Bharadwaj grew up in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, where he pursued an array of interests: martial arts, theatre, tabla, music as well as swimming. In 1997, he started his training in Bharatanatyam under Sh. Justin McCarthy, at the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra, at New Delhi, and graduated the Post Graduate Diploma course with distinction, in 2006. He has trained as an actor with Barry John and been a serious student of yoga with Navtej Johar at Studio Abhyas for several years now. Recipient of the Charles Wallace Scholarship, 2008, Lokesh trained in modern dance at the London Contemporary Dance School, London, UK. He has been the principal dancer in most of Justin McCarthy's choreographies since 2003, is today a principle dancer in the Abhyas Dance Ensemble and in addition pursues a performance career in both classical and contemporary dance as a soloist.

## About the Vocalist

**Shruthi Vishwanath** is a musician, composer and educator. Trained extensively in Carnatic music, her quest for a music that was more true to her led her to the works of Kabir, and the mystic poets. She now explores the intersections of classical and folk, intellectual and visceral by singing the works of poets from across the subcontinent in different forms of music. Her interpretations of abhangs have resulted in several new revivals of unknown works, especially of women saints. Shruthi has performed at venues and festivals across India and abroad. Some key performances include the Kabir Festival of Mumbai, Malwa Kabir Yatra, NCPA, India Habitat Centre, an IFA showcase series in Singapore, and at Raga Forum for Indian Music Vienna. She is a grantee of India Foundation for the Arts.

## About Partners

**Emami Foundation** is a non-profitable organization, constituted on 04th February, 2005 and having its registered office/place of business situated at 687 Anandapur, EM By Pass, 2nd Floor, Kolkata – 700 107. The organization has been formed with an object of charitable purpose and advancement of any other objects of general public utility for the exclusive benefit of public without any reference to caste or creed not involving the carrying on of any activities for profit.

The entire donation received by the organization is applied towards the charitable activities and for attainments of its following objectives:

To provide support, assistance to the poor and needy for their education, and for providing incentives to deserving candidates, sportsmen, etc. The organization provides aid to schools, colleges, institutions for its development. The organization also provides aid to establish, run, support help and maintain hospitals, dispensaries, nursing homes, etc. It also provides medical aid/ relief, free medical treatments, medicines, for the needy and poor. It also assist to offer help to nation on occasions of floods, droughts, epidemics, earthquake, any other natural calamities and many other ancillary activities related to charitable purpose .

The organization is a non-profitable organization and works for the welfare and benefit of the society at large and no part of its properties or its income is applied for any activities which are not for public charitable purposes.

**Gallery Veda** is an art space that aims to breathe life into every piece of art. The brain child of art connoisseurs Preeti Garg and Sanjay Tulsyan, Gallery Veda over the years has showcased art that is affordable and fits into everyone's living spaces and budgets. A contemporary space with a modern tone, Gallery Veda is the perfect space for every art lover! Always innovative and striving to achieve new paradigms, this gallery has achieved many milestones within a few years of its existence and has gone all out to prove that art is an experience and helps people transcend from being just buyers to being connoisseurs who understand and love art!

Since it was founded in 2010, **Latitude 28** has become synonymous with cutting edge art from India, seeking fresh perspectives and innovative thinking in its attempt to stimulate commercial interest in new waves of art making. The establishment's strategy allows the space to act as a horizontal environment where younger artists are able to contextualize and reference their work with the masters of Indian art, even as the ethos of the gallery encourages them to experiment with medium, material and institutional critique. The gallery supports contemporary Indian art not only through exhibitions, but also by supporting residencies and organizing outreach programs.

Launched in 2009, **TAKE on art** is a biannual art journal issued from New Delhi, edited/published by Bhavna Kakar. The magazine comprehensively covers reports and critiques on art and cultural events occurring globally, from a South Asian perspective. TAKE's commitment to critical writing extends to nurturing and publishing emerging art critics, catering to artists, designers, collectors, academicians, art critics and art practitioners. For almost a decade, TAKE has been building alternative art histories for the region, situating texts on forgotten discourses and artists within the established cannon.

Resplendent in its stature and unique location in Mumbai, **Tao Art Gallery** has been a leader in illuminating the way to Art, Creativity & Design for the past 18 years!

**Avid Learning**, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 900 programs and connected with more than 100,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.

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**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. *Facebook:* MumbaiOpera *Twitter:* @MumbaiOpera *Instagram:* @mumbaiopera