

From the Streets of New Orleans to the Grand Stage of Mumbai: Royal Opera House Presents a Unique Jazz Extravaganza

“Jazz is the only unhampered, unhindered expression of complete freedom yet produced in this country.”

— American Pianist and Composer, Duke Ellington

The roots of New Orleans jazz can be traced back to the rich cultural melting pot of the city itself, drawing inspiration from ragtime, blues, marches played by syncopated brass bands, African American gospel hymns, European classical music, popular songs, minstrelsy, and musicals.

Its instrumentation is a reflection of its origins in funeral, brass, and dance bands. The cornet, clarinet, trombone, tuba, banjo, and drums formed the core ensemble, creating a distinct and captivating sound. One of the most defining characteristics of New Orleans jazz is its improvisatory nature, imbued with a blues sensibility and a unique, ragged approach to rhythmic interpretation that sets it apart from other musical styles.

Royal Opera House, Mumbai, Furtados, and Avid Learning are excited to present **Spirit of New Orleans Jazz**, an enthralling concert that will immerse you in the rich musical heritage of the city that birthed jazz. From the classic Preservation Hall style to the more modern "raga jazz," prepare to be captivated by the lyrical melodies and soulful rhythms, all infused with the inimitable spirit of New Orleans. This masterful ensemble features **Charu Suri** on *Piano*, **Joe Lastie** on *Drums*, **Sharmi Surianarain** on *Vocals*, and **Shashank Das** on *Bass* and **Arjun Chakraborty** on *Drums*.

Pianist and Composer Charu Suri seamlessly blends classical music with diverse global influences, including Indian ragas, Sufi music, and jazz. As one of the few female composers from India to perform at **Carnegie Hall**, her talent has garnered international acclaim. Her musical journey has taken her to renowned venues across the globe, including Lincoln Center and St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Charu's song *Verona Waltz* from her album *Ragas & Waltzes* won the Best Jazz Song in North America at the 2023 Intercontinental Music Awards, showcasing her ability to create captivating and genre-defying compositions.

Preservation Hall Drummer Joe Lastie brings the rich traditions of his musical lineage and his profound connection to New Orleans' musical roots to life with every beat. Joe is a committed advocate for the city's cultural heritage, spreading the city's musical story worldwide through performances, workshops, and educational outreach. His passion for sharing this legacy inspires new generations of musicians and keeps the spirit of New Orleans alive.

Royal Opera House and **Avid Learning** orchestrated mesmerizing Jazz evenings throughout 2023. While **Jugalbandi: The Crossing** saw the melodies of Indian Classical and Mediterranean jazz converging, crafting soul-stirring symphonies, **Chingari** offered a unique contemporary twist to the classic East Meets West spectacle. **An Ode to Jazz Divas** was a fitting tribute to the legendary vocalists who continue to shape the genre even today. **Sanjay Divecha and Secret** fused on stage the rich traditions of Hindustani and Carnatic music with the jazz and blues of Brazil, Africa, and the Americas, showcasing the power of music to bridge diverse traditions and cultures. In April this year, we presented an evening of groove and party music featuring a top-notch line-up of musicians including **Ranjit Barot, Zubin Balaporia, and Louiz Banks** honoring the jazz and funk masters of '60s, '70s, and '80s.

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.

Join us for an evening that will transport you into the heart of jazz, where tradition meets innovation and every note tells a story.

When: Friday, 26th July, 2024 | 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Where: Royal Opera House, Mumbai

Tickets: 499/- onwards

Press Email: Ayesha Dadachanji (ayeshah.avid@gmail.com)