What makes the fusion of 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 with more restrictions. Merging of the two gives birth to a new form of fusion music that synthesises 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 leave a lasting impact.

As rightly said by Rabindranath Tagore, "*Indian classical music draws the listener away beyond the limits of everyday human joys and sorrows, and takes us to that lonely region of renunciation which lies at the root of the universe, while Western classical music leads us a variegated dance through the endless rise and fall of human grief and joy.*"

Finding the right emotion in music that connects the two art forms that are rooted in their ragas and scales is what forms the basis of fusion music. It is all about complimenting each other's uniqueness while hiding the other's shortcomings.

**Avid Learning** in association with **Indian Music Experience Museum**, **Furtados** and **Royal Opera House, Mumbai** presents **Across Cultures: Ragas in Western Consciousness**, a lecture demonstration that will examine the nuances of fusion music and the challenges and potential of these cross-disciplinary blends.

The panel will focus on the musical collaborations of one of the most versatile *Musicians, Composers and Sitar players,* **Hidayat Husain Khan.** He will be in conversation with his longtime collaborators - *Musician and Composer,* **Greg Hatza**, *Musicologist, Musician and Co-Founder, Melodic Intersect*, **Enayat Hossain** and *Singer Producer, Songwriter,* **Amit Interdeo**. This panel of experts will be moderated by *Founder and Creative Head, ALSO | ideas . content . design*, **Alleyah Asgghar**.

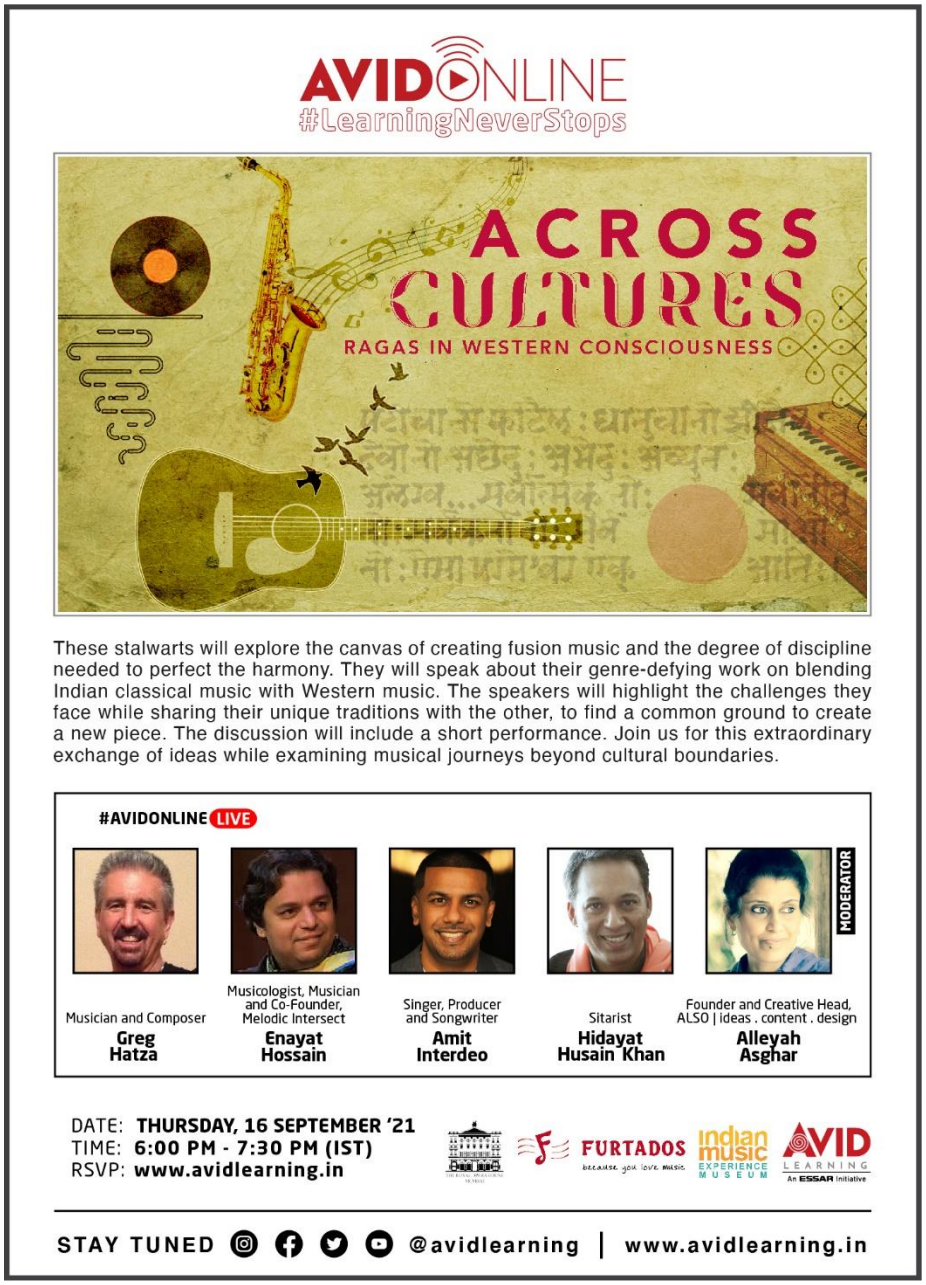
These stalwarts will explore the canvas of creating fusion music and the degree of discipline needed to perfect the harmony. They will speak about their genre-defying work on blending Indian classical music with Western music. The session will also have the speakers talk about the challenges they face while sharing their unique traditions with the other, to find a common ground to create a new piece. The discussion will also include a short performance.

*Read more about the Series below:*

This lecture demonstration is the first of the new series – Across Cultures. The series aims to look at different paradigms of extraordinary exchange of culture and traditions, where we will try to 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?

Join us for this extraordinary exchange of ideas and traditions while examining their musical journeys beyond cultural boundaries.

Date: Thursday, 16th September 2021
Time: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM (IST)
RSVP: www.avidlearning.in
Venue: On Zoom
Press Email: ayeshah.avid@gmail.com




## About the Speakers

**Hidayat Husain Khan,** a direct descendant and proponent of one of the most treasured lineages of eastern classical music, sitarist Hidayat Husain Khan was destined for stardom. Youngest son of the legendary Ustad Vilayat Khan, globally acclaimed as the greatest of all sitarists, Hidayat Husain Khan harbors a rare, creative brilliance that effortlessly takes him across all genres and nuances of music. A charming transition from the very classical to the very colloquial, from playing the intricate Etawa/Vilayatkhani Gharana to performing with the Rolling Stones. An exquisite sitar player and vocalist well-versed in the 'Gayaki ang', a unique rendition where voice blends with the instrument, Hidayat Husain Khan carries the torch of a coveted lineage spanning seven generations of outstanding vocal and instrumental court musicians. Hidayat Khan has lent his versatility in several film score compositions and has performed in numerous classical and fusion concerts, independently and in collaboration with such illustrious musical names as, Ndugu Chancler, Ronnie Woods, Alicia Keys, Usher, Zakir Hussain, Pete Townshend, Will.I.Am, Jay Z and Darryl Jones. Invited from all over the world Hidayat Husain Khan has enthralled audiences in major performances in Europe, Japan, USA, Malaysia, Canada, Singapore, and India. He has

performed in such prestigious venues as Royal Albert Hall in London, Kennedy Center in Washington D.C, Carnegie Hall and Alicetuly Hall in New York.

**Amit Inderdeo** is the epitome of these attributes which reflects in his work as an accomplished singer, produc-er, and songwriter. His melodic and dynamic vocals evoke the deepest of emotions. His ability to fuse different genres of music together connects his audience to the essence of what music represents.Amit's journey began at the age of seven when he was introduced to the tabla by his father and first Guru, Vish-nu Inderdeo. This became the gateway to Amit's lifelong journey of submersion into the world of music. During his early years, his interest grew to include North Indian classical vocals. Under the strict guidance of Pandit Nandkishore Muley, Amit took his first step towards studying the art of Hindustani classical music. As hispassion and mastery of the intricacies of this genre deepened, he furthered his studies and vocal training withRajesh Kelkar, a scholar vocalist and professor of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.Achievements and accolades are no stranger to Amit, who cites his proudest moment as his collaborations with world renowned playback singer Udit Narayan on his first album "Vandana" and India's beloved Sufi singer RichaSharma on his single "Maula Hu." Truly a dynamic and evolving musician, Amit is constantly embarking on new endeavors to fulfill his vision of taking his love for music global. This includes concentrating his efforts on his role as a versatile and experienced music producer. Along with his esteemed friend and partner, sitarist HidayatKhan, Amit has formed the fusion band VINYL KUT in which he is not only the lead vocalist but also engineers and producers the band's music

A native of Reading, Pennsylvania, **Greg Hatza's** musical instincts came to him as early and as naturally as the ability to walk, and he was picking out blues and boogie woogie tunes on the piano around age four before starting formal lessons shortly thereafter. The Hammond B-3 organ became his life's obsession as a teenager, when a friend turned him on to records by Jimmy Smith, Jimmy McGriff, Ray Charles, and Johnny Hammond Smith. In P.A. he met Baltimore Colts football great and jazz fan Lenny Moore who asked the teenager to perform at a club he was opening in Baltimore. Moore became Greg's manager and Baltimore became Greg's home. Greg's formal education includes a Bachelor's degree in Composition from the Peabody Conservatory and a Master's from Towson State University, where he subsequently taught jazz, piano composition, improvisation and music theory for many years. Hatza also expanded his stylistic scope over the years to include distinct ethnic elements. Beginning in 1974, Hatza studied tabla and sitar under Ustad Hamid Hossain over 15 years. He later performed ragas on piano in concert with Hamid, in the U.S., India and Bangladesh. In 1986, Hatza won first place on tabla in the annual "All Indian Music Competition" held at UMBC in Maryland. Somehow he also found time in the summer of 1987 to participate in my recording project Foreign Affairs. In 1996, Hatza began the study of Chinese classical music on the erhu, a two stringed Chinese fiddle, under a Shanghai instructor, Liang Shan Tang. In 1994, he formed the Greg Hatza ORGANization and has been performing and recording on the instrument non-stop since that time.

**Enayet Hossain** was born into a musical family, his grandfather, the late great Ustad Kader Buksh was acknowledged as one of India's foremost musicologist/musician. Enayet learned the tabla from his father, Ustad Hamid Hossain, a very well known Indian music teacher and musician based in the United States. Enayet was born in Bangladesh and raised in the United States and represents a new breed of musicians who received their musical training outside of India. Enayet is a versatile performer of tabla. He is at ease with accompaniment with North Indian classical music, instrumental music, light and semi classical music including thumri, ghazal, dadra etc… as well as giving solo performances. Enayet has over 14 compact disc recordings available where he is featured. Enayet started accompanying India's top musicians from an early age. While only 17, he

accompanied Aftab-E-Sitar Ustad Vilayat Khan on several concerts. He has since accompanied artists like Ustad Salamat Ali
Khan, Pandit Jasraj, Budhaditya Mukherjee, Shujaat Khan, Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan and countless others. Enayet, who grew up in the United States since the age of 4 represents a new breed of musicians who have learned the art of music in outside of India. Enayet has several music compact discs to his credit and has performed tabla throughout the United States and India. He has been featured in many newspapers as a leading artist. He also received many citations from the state of Maryland for his outstanding contributions to the propagation of Indian music and its synthesis in American society. He has also received a grant from the Governor of Maryland as an artist in residence. Enayet has studied Computer Science in college and has brought his knowledge in Computer Science and mixed it with his musicianship. This enabled him to create some of the most ground-breaking products of Indian music. His first venture, with his close friend, Patrick Gomes was to release something that was an introduction to the instrument he loved so dearly. This lead to the development, and creation of Tabla Volume 1: A Journey Into Eastern Percussion. This cdrom has been critically acclaimed and has since been used in various musicology programs throughout the world. It is available from http://www.aimrec.com or http://www.amazon.com. The cdrom proved that the art of Indian music is alive and well and a vast amount of people throughout the world are interested in learning this and exploring the possibilities.
Enayet along with another close associate of his, Anjan Chattopadhyay together thought that the next release should be a comprehensive multimedia encyclopedia of Indian music; something that would facilitate further interest in Indian music. Sangeetpedia was born, and will undoubtedly become something that the future generations can use to gain a greater understanding of Indian music and its intricacies. Enayet is not only a musician par excellence, but also someone who is in a position to combine technology with traditional music. Not to fuse it with another form of music or dilute it in any way, but to propagate it in its original form; the only difference being that the presentation is facilitated in an easier package that makes today's generation able to access and learn from it.
Enayet is also the founding member of Melodic Intersect, a world fusion group bringing together internationally renowned musicians throughout the world. Melodic Intersect has already published four CDs, of which Inner Vision and Global Vision was entered for the 57th Annual Grammy Awards. Inner Vision went on to get the nomination for the Independent Music Awards in 2015. Enayet is also one of a selective group of musicians who are voting members with the Recording Academy and votes actively for the Grammy Awards every year.

**Alleyah Asgghar**, a media professional for over two decades has led creative teams across multiple mediums. From advertising to broadcast radio and television, she has worked on brands and ideas from conception to execution. She has also explored the world of performing arts by creating a series of Hindustani Classical music Baithaks called Haroof. A constant effort to promote and propel new artists is what makes these concerts appreciated by the art loving community. As founder of ALSO, Alleyah engages with audiences and brands in creating content suited to them. In the ever growing world of digital media, she has a creator's role.

## Partner Information

**IME**

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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.

**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
Website: https://www.avidlearning.in/
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