

A Powerful Tribute to the Queens of Jazz - Celebrating Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday & Nancy Wilson at The Royal Opera House, Mumbai

From cafes to theaters to a quiet evening at home, jazz continues to inspire and heavily influence our lives. The most eclectic and, it could be argued, inventive of all the music genres, jazz has taken many forms through the ages. And unlike other genres, it has been dominated not just by men, but in equal part, by women too.

So who were they, exactly? These women with their godly voices, who can still be heard on radios and Spotify playlists today, have dominated the jazz scene from the “beginning” of the genre in the 1940s until today. These bold and brilliant women took their place with grace and elegance to improvise, swing and shine so brightly.

For Immediate Release:

Royal Opera House, Mumbai, Furtados and **Avid Learning** are excited to present **An Ode to Jazz Divas**, celebrating the legacy of the most iconic jazz vocalists of all time - **Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday & Nancy Wilson**. The performance features an eclectic line-up of artists from Mumbai, the UK, and France.

The line-up includes **Avishek Dey** on *Upright Bass delivering scrumptious grooves - yes, the same guy who performed with **Diljit Dosanjh at Coachella Music Festival** - is back on our stage after a gap of four years; last performed at the Mumbai Opera House with Music Director, Composer and Jazz Pianist *Louiz Banks* and Singer *Shweta Shetty* and iconic Indian film and stage actor *Dalip Tahil*. The magical renditions of songs such as *Dream a Little Dream of, Cry Me a River, I Got Rhythm* and many more will be recreated by talented vocalist **Shreya Bhattacharya**; breathing life into the pieces with her powerful yet soothing voice. They will be joined by **Clement Rooney** on *Keys*, an accomplished pianist, who effortlessly weaves intricate harmonies, while **Amandeep Singh** on *Guitar* will bring a touch of finesse to the arrangements. The above ensemble **MODCULT**, stands for Modern Music Culture, is led and founded by Avishek Dey.*

The evening will also feature other well-known artists in the jazz circuits like **Arjun Chakraborty** on *Drums* setting the rhythm, complemented by the mesmerizing **Emmanuel Simon** on *Percussion*, and the soulful artistry of **Jarryd Rodrigues** on *Saxophone*. They will be joined by one of India's most sought-after jazz multi-instrumentalists **Shirish Malhotra** on *Flute and Saxophone* as a guest appearance. Shirish plays in the prestigious Bombay Chamber Orchestra and the Symphony Orchestra of India, and has performed in shows like *Coke Studio @ MTV*, *Satyamev Jayate* and *MTV Unplugged*, along with his musical contribution to movies like *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *Agent Vinod*, *Ludo*, *Madras Cafe*, *Chhichhore* and more.

This carefully selected ensemble with individuals who are masters of their craft will create an experiential musical journey for both players and the audience alike. They will enchant the audiences with their unique interpretations of jazz standards from *The American Songbook*. With their rendition of timeless classics like *Cheek to Cheek*, *Misty*, and *In a Sentimental Mood*, the evening will be transformed into a nostalgic journey through the golden era of jazz.

2023 has been the **year of Jazz** by **Avid Learning** at the **Royal Opera House, Mumbai**. In April, we presented **Jugalbandi: The Crossing**, where Mediterranean Jazz by the Italian artists jammed with Indian Jazz and Carnatic artists to create symphonies of world music. June saw the return of *Producer, Composer, and Drummer Ranjit Barot* with *Chingari*, an evening of Jazz, Carnatic, and Contemporary fusion music performance paying tribute **Mandolin U Shrinivas ji**. After the resounding success of these two events, the stage is set for the next big night of rhythms and melodies.

The Royal Opera House, Mumbai 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.

Treat your ears to 90-minutes of high-quality musicianship paying homage to the trailblazing women whose contribution shaped the world of jazz today!

Where - Royal Opera House, Mumbai

When - Sunday, 9th July 2023 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Tickets - www.insider.in | Rs. 299 onwards

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