

What connects *The Sound of Music*, *West Side Story*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Chicago*? You might have seen feature films bearing these names, but guess what, they all started as **musicals or musical theatres**.

Music has been an integral part of drama since antiquity, but it was only in the late 19th century that Western musical theatre established itself as a unique art form. Four key elements make up musical theatre: **songs, spoken dialogue, acting, and dance**.

For Immediate Release:

Avid Learning in association with **VAIPA, Furtados, Insider, and The Royal Opera House, Mumbai** presents **Creating Musical Theatre**, an open workshop exploring a range of theatre-based practices reimagined for a young audience (ages 9-12) and filled with music-making activities. The workshop will be orchestrated by *Operatic Tenor, Educator, and Composer Sandeep Gurrupadi* and *Concert Violinist and Interdisciplinary Artist, Martha-Maria Mitu*. The workshop will offer the participants a wholesome experience including movements, improvisations, narratives, creative collaborations, and performance practices.

Please read below for more information on the event:

The expert practitioners will help young participants discover the joy of creating music together in a collective space. Not needing any prerequisite knowledge or experience, the workshop will be driven by the **willingness to experiment and work collectively**. By the end of the workshop, the kids would concoct a new music theatre piece.

Academic research has drawn a clear relation between active participation in musical theatre and the development of values like **self-confidence, mutual trust, and teamwork in children**. This workshop will take the participants on a journey of becoming better communicators through performing art, allowing them to express themselves freely. Combining music, dance, and words with enactment will enhance their coordination and become better narrators. Toward the end, the young participants will perform their short pieces developed over the course of the workshop.

Join us for this power-packed session that integrates four magical elements to weave magic on stage.

Where: 1st Floor Podium, Essar House, K.K. Marg, Mahalaxmi - 400034

When: Saturday, 14th January 2023

10:00 AM to 10:30 AM - **Registrations** | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM - **Workshop**

Tickets: www.insider.in | Rs. 500 (incl. Refreshments)

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



An open workshop that explores a range of theatre-based practices reimagined for young people and filled with music making activities. The workshop will include movement, improvisation, narrative, creative collaboration and performance practices. Participants will discover how music/soundscapes can be created in a space together, which will then be incorporated with movement to create 'music theatre'. There is no prior knowledge of music or theatre required to attend, but just a willingness to experiment and work collectively to devise a new music theatre piece over the course of the workshop.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Gain a deeper knowledge of the performing arts, how it can be used to communicate stories.
- Understand the relation between music and theatre.
- Various theatre and music making activities designed to encourage team building, ensemble performance and building narratives.
- Our young participants will learn to coordinate, work together and discover what goes into creating a professional musical theatre ensemble.
- Create and tell their own stories through movement and sound, using their voices as instruments.
- The workshop will culminate in a sharing where the children will be performing the short pieces that they have created during the workshop.



Operatic Tenor,
Educator and Composer
Sandeep Gurrapadi



Concert Violinist and
Interdisciplinary Artist
Martha-Maria Mitu

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Sandeep Gurrapadi is an American operatic tenor, educator and composer with experience in the UK, Europe, India, China and America. Sandeep has premiered leading roles in new opera at the Tête a Tête festival, Grimeborn festival, Southbank Centre - UK, Royal Academy of Music, Royal Opera House and London Festival of American Music - amongst many others. He has been invited to perform as a soloist in venues ranging from the Beijing National Stadium (Dialogue for Asian Civilizations Conference for the Chinese President), to the Beaumaris Festival of Wales and the Royal Opera House of Mumbai. In 2022, Sandeep was an understudy in the highly acclaimed opera *Violet* for the Aldeburgh Festival with the London Sinfonietta (produced by Britten Pears Arts and Royal Opera House - Covent Garden). He then went on to originate roles in the productions *Witchfinder* by Cohere Arts, *Meal One* by 509 Arts [UK wide tour] and *Silver Spoon* by Keynote Opera. Whilst in India, Sandeep will be performing in recitals for the *Art Song Festival* alongside soprano and artistic director Nina Kanter in cities across the country.

As an experienced facilitator, Sandeep has worked with organizations such as Streetwise Opera, KM Music Conservatory, English National Opera (Baylis), Trinity Laban Conservatoire - London and the Singapore Raffles Music College.

Alongside performing, Sandeep is also a doctoral researcher with the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he is investigating music facilitation practices within the context of exploring third space identity and intercultural artistic partnerships. Further info: www.sandeepgurrapadi.com

Martha Maria Mitu is a classical violinist, interdisciplinary performer, composer, and music educator. Alumna of the Lucerne School of Music Switzerland, and Bern School of Music - Martha has performed and showcased her work in various prominent international stages (both classical and contemporary) all over Europe, Asia, and the UK. Martha is currently a 1st violin member of the BBC Concert Orchestra where her most recent performances include - Snape Malting BBC Proms, the Nevil Holt Opera and new recordings with internationally acclaimed soprano Barbara Hannigan; Martha has also performed recitals at Wigmore Hall with Effra String Quartet and has been Concertmaster within the Lucerne Festival Switzerland.

Also an avid composer, Martha has composed and performed a series of interdisciplinary works, often designed for classical instruments, electronic music, and visual arts (paintings, interactive video projections, and dance). Martha's compositions have been showcased in festivals such as HSLU New Music Days Festival – Lucerne, Switzerland; Perceptions Festival at the Apt Gallery in London, and many others.

About Partners

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 the late 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 | YouTube: Royal Opera House, Mumbai

Avid Learning is Essar's cultural philanthropy arm and India's leading public programming platform. Founded in 2009, over the past decade and counting, Avid Learning has presented over 1400 multiverse and hybrid programs on its offline and online platforms – AVID Online, launched in 2020 – and jointly reached 1.8 million interested learners, globally. With a vision to democratize the arts, create new audiences, and deepen engagement in India's burgeoning creative sector, Avid Learning thoughtfully curates diverse events that embrace the spirit of collaboration. In all its efforts, Avid Learning stands true to its motto that #LearningNeverStops.