

## Serendipity Arts Festival 2024: Music Highlights

This year's edition will witness an array of music performances curated by **Zubin Balaporia** and **Bickram Ghosh**. Renowned for his tabla skills and innovative fusion music, Bickram Ghosh will return as Music curator alongside Zubin Balaporia, who curated three special projects in the 2023 edition.

### Details of Music Events:

- **Music in the Art Park:**

Curated by Gaya Tideman, Music in the Art Park is back at SAF this year. This edition is set in the relaxed environs of the riverside Art Park, featuring a daily lineup of local talent, including bands like Merak and Stitch in Nine. The focus of the music this year is contrast, oscillating between live and electronic elements.

- **Echoes of Traditions: Exploring Tribal, Folk and Classical Instruments in India:**

Curated by Helen Acharya, this exhibition delves into the deep connection between indigenous and folk traditions and their larger cultural and environmental contexts. The exhibition showcases rare instruments from tribal, folk, and classical traditions, exploring how their repeated use helps sustain and evolve practices passed down through generations. These instruments are integral to life's ceremonies, from birth to death, and reflect the rhythm of daily existence, honouring both the performers' occupations and the communities they serve, while fostering a reverence for the natural world.

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## Performances Curated by Zubin Balaporia:

- **One World:**

This concert brings together legendary rockers Lou Majaw, Warren Mendonsa, and Pratika Gopinath to deliver a message of unity through music. With a mix of rock, folk, and Indian classical elements, One World emphasises the power of music to transcend cultural divides.

- **Peace Concert:**

Peace Concert, featuring the legendary Lou Majaw along with Uday Benegal, Mahesh Tinaiker, and Zubin Balaporia, aims to harness the universal language of music to promote peace, understanding, and unity among diverse audiences. An unforgettable evening where music and harmony come together to create a powerful message of peace.

- **Thermal and a Quarter:**

Thermal and a Quarter (TAAQ), one of India's most prolific rock bands, takes the stage in a concert curated by Zubin Balaporia. Founded in 1996 in Bangalore, TAAQ has released eight studio albums and performed at renowned festivals worldwide. Featuring Leslie Charles (Bass, Backing Vocals), Rajeev Rajagopal (Drums), Bruce Lee Mani (Guitar, Vocals), and Tony Das (Guitar, Backing Vocals), the band's dynamic sound has earned them accolades, chart-topping hits, and collaborations with rock legends like Deep Purple, Slash, and Jethro Tull. This performance promises a thrilling blend of rock mastery and musical innovation.

- **BlackstratBlues:**

Blackstratblues performance is a solo project of Warren Mendonsa, who is a guitarist, songwriter, producer and recording engineer. The current lineup is

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augmented by Jai Row Kavi on Drums, Adi Mistry on Bass and Beven Fonseca on Keys. Their music is predominantly instrument, consisting of a blend of Blues, Rock & 70's Psychedelia with strong melodic and occasional electronic influences.

- **Imphal Talkies:**

Imphal Talkies is a folk rock band from Manipur, formed in 2008 by Akhu Chingangbam. The band is known for its political songs which often represents the minority communities in India through its music.

- **Roz Angon:**

Roz Angon is a nostalgic musical journey that revisits and reimagines the tunes heard on the radio during childhood in Goa, particularly in the 1990s. Evoking warmth and melancholy, the event reflects on the rapid changes affecting Goa's cultural and natural landscape. Through music, it aims to spark a conversation about the fading Goan identity, touching on the loss of language, traditions, and the region's unique environment. This soulful event is a tribute to the cherished memories and heritage of Goa.

- **Saudade: A Night of Goan Music:**

An evening of soulful music and joyous celebration capturing the true spirit of Goa.

- **Thumri in the Chamber:**

This concert highlights renditions of classical Thumri pieces harmoniously integrating diverse musical styles and instruments. It will also showcase the versatility of Indian classical music, featuring renowned artists like Vijay Prakash, Priyanka Barve, Sarang Kulkarni, Shikhar Naad, and a string quartet.

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- **The Vian Pereira String Quartet:**

The Vian Pereira String Quartet, based in Goa, India, was founded in 2022 by cellist Vian Pereira. The Vian Pereira String Quartet offers a unique blend of classical, popular and folk music across languages. Their performances have captivated audiences at various concerts and events with their versatility and rich sound, showcasing a diverse repertoire that bridges various musical traditions.

- **True School of Music:**

A student rock band that will perform covers as well as originals. The performance aims to provide a platform for the students at TSM beyond the classroom.

- **Happy Home School for the Blind Choir:**

The Happy Home School for the Blind Choir features a heartwarming performance by visually and multiply impaired children. With a 98-year legacy of nurturing and empowering blind students, this special choir brings together 200 joyful boys who transcend barriers of language and creed. The performance, with a focus on Christmas carols, celebrates the universal language of music, spreading joy and smiles through a diverse repertoire. It is a touching tribute to resilience, hope, and the power of music to unite and uplift.

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## Performances Curated by Bickram Ghosh:

- **Laxmikant-Pyarelal Tribute:**

A tribute performance to the music directors Laxmikant-Pyarelal. The concert will feature an orchestra, and leading musicians who will perform songs from LP discography. Pyarelal ji will also grace the stage with his presence and conduct the orchestra.

- **Jugalbandi:**

A performance with two contrasting instruments engaging in a musical dialogue. We will be looking at unique combinations like a Jugalbandi between a Pianist and a Thavil player.

- **Glorious India:**

Glorious India- The New Sound Of Tradition is an instrumental Hindi album released on 24 Jan 2024. The album is composed by Bikram Ghosh and features songs sung by Bikram Ghosh himself, Rajhesh Vaidhya and Rakesh Chaurasia.

- **3 Divas:**

A performance featuring the three legends Usha Uthup, Aruna Sairam and Kavita Krishnamurthy.

- **Isheeta Chakravarthy Collective:**

The Isheeta Chakrvarthy Collective, curated by Bikram Ghosh, blends traditional Hindustani music with contemporary jazz and world influences. Featuring vocals, sarod, keys, bass, and percussion, the ensemble reimagines original compositions and global sounds, offering a dynamic fusion of styles in a fresh and innovative performance.

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- **Ghazal-e-Qawalli:**

A concert featuring songs made famous by Jagjit Singh, Pankaj Udhas, Ghulam Ali, Mehdi Hasan, and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, performed by a younger generation of musicians. Qawwali would come in the last 3 tracks.

- **River Raag:**

A unique sunset cruise featuring classical performances departing from Santa Monica Jetty. Audience members will get the opportunity to revel in the rays of the setting sun while the cool breeze blowing across the Mandovi river carries the notes of the artists and their jugalbandi.

- **FINDING HEAVEN-The Tapi Project:**

FINDING HEAVEN by The Tapi Project pushes the boundaries that define our fixated ideas of art and culture. It gives the audiences a chance to experience boundarylessness, fluidity in structure and complete surrender to the form.

This is possible only when one art form seamlessly merges with the other, achieving a heightened state of artistic expression where neither takes precedence over the other. The two art forms being poetry and music.

- **In Conversation:**

A conversation between two musicians from different generations sharing their journeys and experiences in the music industry. The engagement shall culminate with an informal jam session amongst the musicians.

- **Bombay Lights:**

Bombay Lights is a dynamic and genre-defying band known for their fusion of folk and contemporary music and Bollywood, and captivating live performances. With our unique blend of genres, including elements of world music.

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