Roopa Panesar (UK)

in collaboration with percussionist **Pirashanna Thevaraja** and tabla player **Nitin Mitta**



The brand new collaboration between British-Indian sitar player **Roopa Panesar**, percussionist **Pirashanna Thevarajah** and tabla player **Nitin Mitta**.

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Roopa Panesar



Considered one of the finest sitar players to emerge on the Indian music scene, UK based **Roopa Panesar** is recognized as an emerging talent. Her soulful and unique style of playing has been receiving accolades from audiences and peers alike for her outstanding ability and quality of music, which has left her listeners captivated.

At the age of seven she began her training under the great educationalist and sitar maestro **Ustad Dharambir Singh MBE** and under the guidance of **Pandit Arvind Parikh** and **Ustad Shahid Parvez**.

With the incredible emotional depth of her sound, she has touched the hearts of audiences far and wide touring extensively in the UK and Europe at major festivals and venues such as *WOMAD UK, Royal Festival Hall London, BBC Radio 3, Brighton Festival, Darbar Festival at South Bank Centre, Birmingham Symphony Hall* and *Colston Hall, Bristol*.

Roopa has collaborated with artists from many different genres, including Mercury Prize winner Talvin Singh, Laura Wright and Dirk Brosse, Belgian Symphony Orchestra, Limburg Symphony Orchestra, German Chamber Music Festival, and with music director Rob Lane for the soundtrack of the film 'West is West'. Rob Lane adds, '*Roopa's sitar playing on "West Is West" added immeasurably to my score and showed effortless versatility in moving between blues and classical Indian styles'.*

UK Press Reviews

'British-Indian sitar player Roopa Panesar and her band were outstanding' – **The Independent**

"Sitar star Roopa Panesar, from Leicester, captivated in the wooded arena, her music the perfect soundtrack' – **The Guardian**

'Roopa Panesar stole the show with her graceful and seductive solo Sitar' **– The First Draft**

roopapanesar.com

Pirashanna Thevarajah



Pirashanna Thevarajah is a senior disciple of **Mridanga vidwan Sri. M. Balachandar.**

A versatile performer, he is one of the few percussionists of his generation to have a command of the various Indian percussion instruments such as the mridangam, kanjira, ghatam and morsing; and is also proficient in the art of konnakol (Indian spoken rhythm).

He has collaborated and performed with many of the world's foremost Indian classical and contemporary musicians, including *Pandit Ravi Shankar, Anoushka Shankar, Dr M. Balamuralikrishna, Mandolin U. Shrinivas,Talvin Singh* and many others.

His busy schedule has taken him to many venues and festivals across Europe, India, the USA and Canada. Pirashanna has featured on many albums and movies, including Anoushka Shankar's Grammy nominated albums *Traveller* and *Traces of You*.

tpirashanna.com

Nitin Mitta



Nitin Mitta, based in New York, is one of the most sought after tabla players of his generation. Apart from being a dynamic soloist, he is a highly sought after accompanist who has performed with some of India's most celebrated Hindustani classical musicians, including *Pandit Jasraj, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Pandits Rajan and Sajan Mishra, Pandit Janardan Mitta, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Pandit Budhaditya Mukherjee, Ustad Shahid Parvez and Ustad Nishat Khan* to name a few.

Nitin has also made a mark as a versatile collaborator in other spheres. He joined forces with 2010 Grammy nominee pianist **Vijay Iyer** and electric guitarist **R. Prasanna** to produce a studio album titled *Tirtha* that blends elements of contemporary jazz with the North and South Indian traditional ragas and compositions. He has been a band member of the Juno award winning singer, **Kiran Ahluwalia.** Other musicians he has performed with include **Yoko Ono** and **Simon Shaheen.**

Born and brought up in Hyderabad, India, Nitin received his early training in tabla at the age of 9 from **Pandit G. Satyanarayana.** After winning the First prize in the All India competition and the National Scholarship for music, Nitin continued his further training in tabla under the distinguished teacher **Pandit Arvind Mulgaonkar** of Mumbai. Both of Nitin's gurus are disciples of the late **Ustad Amir Hussain Khan,** legendary doyen of the Farukhabad Gharana.

Nitin maintains a busy schedule of performances and tabla workshops, traveling throughout the U.S, Europe, Canada and India. He has performed at several prominent venues, including the *Weill Recital Hall* and *the Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center* and *The Metropolitan Museum of Art* in New York. He has also performed at many of the major music festivals in India, including the Pandit Motiram and Pandit Maniram Sangeet Samaroh in Hyderabad, the Harivallabh Sangeet Samaroh in Jalandhar and the Music Academy Venue in Chennai.

'A wakeful, radiant performance, suffused with a tricky tranquillity.' **– NY Times**

'Bewitching… takes listeners to places they've never heard.' **– LA Times**

nitinmitta.com

Tour Information

About the artists
Roopa Panesar - *sitar*
Pirashanna Thevarajah - *percussion*
Nitin Mitta - *tabla*

About the performance

Title: Roopa Panesar
Art form: Music
Genre: World Music, Indian classical, contemporary
Audience suitability: A wide range of audience (all age ranges)
Education/workshops: Artists are available for workshops and post show talk
Scale: Small, mid and large scale, theatre, music venues and festivals
Style: Seating (preferable)
Number of performers: 3-4 on stage
Number on tour: 5 (including sound engineer and tour manager)
Duration: 90 minutes
Get In/Out: 2 hours for sound check and 1 hour for load out

Venue requirements:
- Stage area: Minimum 6 m x 3 m
- Backstage: One green room
- Music system: Full PA system to stage plan/channel list
- Technician: PA tech, stage hand
- Get in access from (time) 3 hours before the doors opening time
- Pre-rig from lighting plan on morning of show prior to crew arrival.

Hotel: 5 single rooms, three to four star.

Booking: Interested venues should contact booking team with venue capacity, ticket price and available dates to discuss the fees

About Asian Arts Agency

Asian Arts Agency is a dynamic arts development agency based in Bristol that develops, promotes and supports international contemporary and traditional South Asian arts through performances, workshops, new commissions, tours, film screenings, new productions and ongoing support to artists.

Recent UK tours by Asian Arts Agency include Sain Zahoor (Pakistan), Barmer Boys (India) Delhi 2 Dublin, New York based Red Baraat, Kiran Ahluwalia, Amjad Ali Khan.

Additionally Asian Arts Agency has worked with some of the most groundbreaking, world-class artists including Zakir Hussain, Talvin Singh, Susheela Ramin, Malkit Singh, Gurdass Mann, Dhol Foundation, Anoushka Shankar, Transglobal Underground, Mavin Khoo, Dhoad Gypsies of Rajasthan etc.

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*Please note, Asian Arts Agency reserves the right to change the line up and tour dates though every effort will be made to inform promoters in advance.