



CONVERSATIONS IN TAAL

Conversations in Taal is a jazz and world music project lead by the artistic duo comprised of sitarist Gargi Shinde and noted pianist Adam Klipple with featured international guest artists. The project uses rhythmic percussion patterns from dance and music to bridge the tradition of Indian classical music with jazz. Dance, especially Kathak, is explored not only for its visual style, but also as a crucial accompaniment to composition through the dancer's skill in navigating the complex Indian Raga-Taal relationship. With exciting original compositions sourcing inspiration from traditions rich in rhythm and percussion, innovative live improvisational moments among musicians on stage and unusual reinterpretations the poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca and classical poetry from South Asia, **Conversations in Taal** is a unique collaboration among veteran and future NYC jazz and world music artists that brings together artists and audiences across cultures and musical tastes.

(** Varying musicians/percussionists invited as guest artists.)

Artist Bios



GARGI SHINDE (Sitar): Gargi's quest for a dialogue between the Indian and Western traditions began when she heard a recording of her Guru, **Padmabhushan Ustad Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan** in concert with Dave Brubeck in 1958. Gargi has performed since the age of 10 winning accolades and gold medals at national music competitions and recitals in Mumbai, India. In the U.S, Gargi has collaborated with award winning singer songwriter Sean Rowe on his album *End of October*, renowned Flamenco danseuse La Conja, pianists Rod Williams and Adam Klipple, and veteran jazz drummer Mark Johnson. Gargi has also

lectured on classical Indian performance history and aesthetics at Indiana University, Bloomington; University at Albany, State University of New York and the City University of New York – BMCC.

A professional actress, Gargi was a featured actress in the 2009 Oscar nominated film *Frozen River*. Gargi actively composes original music for theatre also, including productions such as *The Woman* for Columbia Stages in NYC. Her performance credits in the U.S. include the Brooklyn-Queens Conservatory of Music, 92ndStreet Y Tribeca, lecture/demonstrations at the Chicago Women's Performance Art Festival, Hawaii Interdisciplinary Art Conference, Festival of Original Theatre, Canada.

ADITI BHAGWAT (Kathak): A graded National Artist of India, Kathak exponent Aditi Bhagwat received her tutelage under the renowned Maestra, **Padmashree Dr. Roshan Kumari**. She has an M.A. in dance from Mahagandharva Mahavidyalaya (National School of Dance) and is an empanelled artist of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Aditi has performed internationally at dance festivals, including fusion projects with musicians in the U.S., U.K., East Africa, Australia and Maldives. She was recently honored by the Nalanda Dance Research Center in India for her excellence in dance performance.

A celebrated actress in India, Aditi has appeared in several television series, and works with renowned directors in Bollywood. Aditi is a much sought after instructor of Kathak, Odissi and various folk dance styles of India.



ADAM KLIPPLE (Piano/Arrangements): A veteran pianist in the jazz and funk scene, Klipple has appeared at such noted venues as the Lincoln Center's Dizzy's Coca Cola Club, Blue Note, Iridium Jazz Club, the Jazz Standard, Blues Alley and the Knitting Factory, and at international jazz festivals ranging from the Umbria Jazz Festival, to the JVC Jazz Festival, the Moers Jazz Festival, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, and the Free Jazz Festival in Rio de Janeiro. He has performed and recorded with music icons as Lauryn Hill, Smokey Robinson, Craig Harris, Graham Haynes, Joseph Bowie, and Defunkt, Ron Affif, Vinny Valentino, Jason Marshall, and Michael Ray, Cosmic Krewe, Sun Ra Arkestra, Sekou Sundiata, Marc Ribot, John Medeski, Kurt Rosenwinkle, Carla Cook, David Gilmore, Josh Roseman, Peter Apfelbaum, Jay Rodriguez and Groove Collective.



A composer and arranger, his Hammond organ quartet, *Drive-By Leslie* explores styles of electric jazz from the organ trio era to the present. Adam has garnered several grants from Arts International and Meet the Composer to travel to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to collaborate with local folk musicians. Adam toured Southeast Asia and the Pacific Rim as part of Jazz at Lincoln Center's 2006 Rhythm Road. Sponsored by the Kennedy Center and the U.S. Department of State, his jazz quartet performed internationally as **Jazz Ambassador** in 2003 on a six-week tour of concerts and master classes in Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

GEORGE MEL (Drums/percussion): A prolific drummer and percussionist, Mel has performed at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Blue Note, Zinc Bar, 55Bar, The Bitter End, Smalls, among several other NYC venues. Over the years, Mel has served as sideman to former EMI recording artist Wendy Sheridan and Walter Trout of John Mayall's *Bluesbreakers*, and performed with such artists as Badal Roy, Duane Eubanks, Bob Rodriguez, Mark Helias, Leni Stern Avishai Cohen, Wayne Escoffery, Freddie Bryant, Lionel Loueke, Craig Handy, Sergio Brandao, Victor Prieto, jazz clarinet legend Perry Robinson, and Brazilian piano legend Dom Salvador, among countless other world class musicians.

A native of Tbilisi, Georgia, Mel was **the artistic voice** of underground rock band *Limousine*, which performed in concert halls, major rock festivals, and appeared on national radio and television. He is the **first Georgian-born musician** to graduate with a degree in Jazz Performance in the United States from the illustrious Berklee School of Music. Mel has released two albums as leader and composer entitled *Winding Road* and *Streams of Consciousness*.



MASATAKA ODAKA (Bass/Arrangements): A native of Tokyo, Japan Masataka splits his time between Asia and the Big Apple. An upright and electric bassist by trade, he is frequently on call in New York City and has performed as a sideman for musicians from varying disciplines that range from jazz to Broadway and classical, including Rory Stuart, Jane Ira Bloom, Joseph Baker, Nancy Anderson, Stefania de Kenessey, Barbara Mallow, Albert Lotto, Thomas Piercy, Theodore Arm, and Judith Olsen. He has studied with Andy McKee and Jeff Carney at the New School of Music, and former New York Philharmonic principal bassist John Schaeffer.

Active as a bandleader and composer, Masataka has led his own ensemble performances of original compositions in venues such as Sweet Rhythm, Pianos, the Tenri Cultural Institute, and The Jazz Gallery. He is a graduate of the New School Jazz and Contemporary Music Program.

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