

Biographies

Melbourne Tabla Ensemble

For over a decade Sam Evans has been bringing together some of Melbourne's finest musicians to show-case the virtuosic tabla drumming of North India. The ensemble regularly performs at music festivals, cultural events, universities, schools and celebrations, recently performing in front of over 20,000 people at the Diwali celebrations in Melbourne. In its current incarnation, The Melbourne Tabla Ensemble features tabla players Sam Evans, Rithvik Chand and Sachin Iyer. Joining them to create diverse and colourful performances are sitarist and vocalist Dr Sarita McHarg and bansuri player Subramanya Sastry. The power and drama of multiple tabla players playing fast and complex music together is something to behold.

Dr Sam Evans - TABLA

Sam Evans is a contemporary Australian musician and tabla player who works as performer, composer and educator in Melbourne. Following many years of training and research in India, he has dedicated his career to integrating the culture, music and instruments of India in Australia. He is a regular international performer of both traditional Indian music and contemporary world music. He composes music for film and documentaries, is the founding director of the Melbourne Tabla School and is the first Australian to hold a PhD in tabla.

Dr Sarita McHarg - SITAR

Coming from the centuries old Indian folk culture, Sarita McHarg brings a unique classical and contemporary experience to the world of music. A true devotional sitarist and vocalist; Sarita has earned several prestigious recognitions including All India Radio Artist, Talent Award from the University of Vikram (India) and State Government – Madhya Pradesh for contribution to the Malwa (folk) music. She has vast collaborative experience with Indian and Western musicians, blending Eastern and Western contemporary, classical and improvisational styles. She has published two books, released several songs and maintains a busy performing schedule.

Subramanya Sastry - BANSURI

Subramanya Sastry is a passionate Bansuri flautist from India. He has performed in over 500 concerts in India and around the world including Singapore, Malaysia, Mauritius and Australia, where he has been living since 2017. He has been awarded numerous prestigious accolades including Best Instrumentalist by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Central Government of India

Sachin Iyer - TABLA

Sachin Iyer began playing tabla in early childhood, training with renowned tabla player Ashok Chavali. He later studied tabla under Dr Sam Evans, a senior disciple of Pandit Anindo Chatterjee. He regularly performs at Indian cultural festivals and devotional music offerings. He has performed for events such as the Australia Day celebrations the Monash University Jazz Band and various multicultural and fusion music festivals. Sachin now teaches tabla at the Melbourne Tabla School and is a member of the Melbourne Tabla Ensemble.

Rithvik Chand - TABLA

Rithvik began his tabla studies at the age of 9 under the instruction of renowned tabla player Ashok Chavali. Rithvik then went under the instruction of Dr Sam Evans and completed his tabla studies in high school, becoming the first tabla player to achieve a perfect score in a non-western musical instrument at VCE level. He has been performing professionally for over 7 years and is currently a teacher at the Melbourne Tabla School.