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Published: October 20, 2011 18:27 IST | Updated: October 24, 2011 15:37 IST October 20, 2011

More than just seven notes



• [BARADWAJ RANGAN](#)



Special Arrangement

Line-up for the Bangalore edition of the Novemebr Fest 2011 (from left) - Boriana Dimitrova from the 'Boriana Dimitrova Quartet', Bobby Singh and Jeff Lang from 'Down Under Blues' and Ravikiran & Unnikrishnan from 'Saptashabda'.



Haridwaramangalam Palanivel



Giridhar Udupa



Amrit

The Hindu November Music Festival opens on November 4 in Bangalore. The three-day festival has three concerts from three different continents

The Hindu November Fest is back in Bangalore for the second time, with three concerts from three continents. “Carried in Mind,” the 14th album from Australian Jeff Lang, is described by the singer, songwriter and slide guitarist as “a batch of brand-new, reconditioned, rust-removed, freshly ventilated, instinct-driven musical conversations between sleep-deprived, cheaply-clothed, (mostly) freshly-shaven, (partially) clean-living, flinty-eyed gentlemen wielding precision instruments with all due care and respect.” At least a few of these qualities – primarily, “instinct-driven musical conversations,” for this artist is known for working without a set list, channelling the energy of each night to shape completely unique performances – will spill over into “Down Under Blues,” Lang’s concert for The Hindu Friday Review November Fest (staged with the support of the Australian High Commission), where he will be accompanied by Bobby Singh, the internationally renowned tabla player.

Lang’s music and style of performance has earned raves from both critics and fellow performers. John Butler, the Australian musician, songwriter, record label owner and producer, claimed, “Seeing Jeff Lang was like being at church for three hours - a totally sacred event. He’s the man as far as I’m concerned.” Guitar Player Magazine wrote, “Lang’s music is as fiercely original as it is moving.” And Bruce Elder, in Sydney Morning Herald, wrote, “Lang is really the godfather of an Australia-based back-to-basics blues movement.” Bobby Singh, renowned in both traditional Indian classical music and cross cultural genres and a consistent fixture in Australia’s world music scene, is a student of Aneesh Pradhan. He met Lang while collaborating on their Aria Award-winning world music project “Djan Djan”, with Malian kora player, Mamadou Diabate. Their relationship has endured beyond this project into a musical meeting point of folk, blues and Indian influences, which nonetheless has its own distinctive personality.

True to its mission of showcasing diverse musical genres, the Fest will feature – in its opening concert titled “Sapta Shabda” – the Indian chitravina virtuoso N Ravikiran, along with the renowned Carnatic vocalist Unnikrishnan, the thavil maestro Haridwaramangalam A.K. Palanivel, the young violinist Charumathi Raghuraman, the innovative kanjira player Bangalore Amrit, the flautist Chaitanya Kumar and the

ghatam exponent Giridhar Udupa. “Sapta Shabda” will feature traditional compositions interspersed with contemporary compositions and arrangements that employ Ravikiran’s award-winning concept, Melharmony, the new approach to compositions and aesthetics that Ravikiran initiated in 2000 at the Millennium Festival in UK. As he explains it, “Melharmony specifically aims to bring several melodic concepts not usual in the West (in terms of form and structure as also, artistry and ornamentation) and harmonic dimensions and tonal verticality that are almost totally absent in the Eastern approach.” In other words, it aims to capture the fundamental spirit of melody, rhythm and lyrics but with the fourth dimension of harmony. The seven compositions to be performed with varying instrumentation will showcase the tonality of seven of the most popular sounds in Indian music today, including the voice, and also feature seven different rhythms in 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 13 and 15 units.

“A Balkan Feeling,” as its name suggests is completely removed from Indian music. This performance is by the Boriana Dimitrova Quartet, whose distinctiveness begins with its eponymous leader, a woman who has breached the male bastion of the brass section. The quartet – which comprises Boriana Dimitrova on the saxophone and flute, Jakob Dreyer playing bass, Lars Dahlke on the guitar, and Niels-Henrik Heinsøhn on the drum – performs compositions that merge western European jazz with elements of the folk music of Dimitrova’s home country, Bulgaria.

The group’s unique sound is a fusion of musical traditions, merging western European jazz with elements of the folk music of Dimitrova’s home country, Bulgaria. As the International Jazz Festival at Bansko, Bulgaria, described it, “Boriana’s music is an intriguing fusion of jazz and elements of Bulgarian music folklore. Her own compositions abound in irregular rhythms, typical of Bulgarian folk music, skilfully combined with modern jazz trends. Her compositions are deceptively light, lyrical melodies of bass and drum rhythms, reminiscent of the Bulgarian folk instruments kaval and bagpipe. Exceptional instrumentalists with an amazing range, members of the quartet aptly integrate diverse music components, producing high-class jazz.” They will perform pieces from their album “Balkan Blues.”

It’s not just these three concerts from three continents. This year marks a watershed in the evolution of the The Hindu Friday Review November Fest because it travels this month to four other South Indian cities – Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Kochi and, of course, Chennai, where it all began in 2005. In all, the Fest will feature 20 concerts by 14 groups from six countries around the world. For the discerning music lover, is there a better place to be?

Tickets

Tickets are priced at Rs. 300/200/100. Student passes are available at Rs. 50. Season passes are available for Rs. 700/ Rs. 500.

Tickets for all shows can be purchased online at www.thehindu.com/novemberfest and www.indianstage.in and get them delivered to your home or office by calling 080-42062969.

Tickets for all shows also available at Landmark – Jayanagar, Forum Mall, Koramangla, Planet M Outlets at Brigade Road, Jayanagar, Esteem Mall, Garuda Mall, Mantri Mall, Total Mall Sarjapur road, Kalyan Nagar, Martahalli, Bose Outlets at Forum mall and Prestige Emporium, M.G. Road and *The Hindu* Office, Infantry Road.

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Printable version | Jan 18, 2016 8:30:47 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/music/more-than-just-seven-notes/article2555024.ece>

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