

RIVERSIDE THEATRES PRESENTS

DEBASHISH BHATTACHARYA

ACCOMPANIED ON TABLA BY BOBBY SINGH



SIDE MUSIC

SUNDAY 20 MARCH AT 3PM

RIVER

MUSICIANS

DEBASHISH BHATTACHARYA
SLIDE GUITAR

BOBBY SINGH
TABLA

CREATIVES

JORDAN VERZAR
PRODUCER



BIOGRAPHIES



**DEBASHISH
BHATTACHARYA**
Slide Guitar

Debashish Bhattacharya is considered, by many, to be the most accomplished slide guitarist alive today. His guru, Brij Bhushan Khabra, is considered the father of Indian classical guitar, indeed he was the first

artist to play Hindustani classical music on slide guitar. In 1933 slide guitar came from Hawaii to Kolkata, India (the hometown of Debashish). Debashish learned Hawaiian guitar in early childhood, creating his unique technique and was considered a genius when he was 10. His further studies with Pandit Brij channelled his knowledge into a mastery of the instrument with a direct emotional connection.

Through his extreme virtuosity Debashish Bhattacharya has won the hearts of millions all over the world...He doesn't believe in the difference between classical music from the East and West, but sees it instead as simply universal. Music is his faith, which he believes, gives peace and joy to listeners.

A designer musician, Debashish has gone on to develop his own brand of innovative Hindustani slide guitars after years of research and experience. So far, he has designed 19 guitars and currently tours the world with his patented Trinity named-Chatrangui, Gandharvi and Anandi.

In his eternal quest to give the Indian slide guitar a coveted place on the world music map, he collaborates extensively, exploring common threads in various musical styles. Among his co-collaborators are Ustad Zakir Hussain, John McLaughlin, Jeff Lang, Jerry Douglas, Derek Trucks and other world renowned musicians.

He has been featured in USA's Billboard Top 10 several times, Songlines Magazine Top 10 and the Central Asia and Asia Pacific World Music Top 10. Debashish was nominated for a 2009 Grammy Award in the category of Best Traditional World Music Album for his album *Calcutta Chronicles*, listed on Amazon's Top 100 albums, presented with the National Geographic, 2007 BBC Planet Award for World Music, 2005 Asiatic society Gold Medal and received the 1984 President of India Gold Medal.



BOBBY SINGH

Tabla

Born and raised in England, Bobby spent a great deal of his childhood in Mumbai studying at Sangeet Mahabharati, an institute of music started by the great tabla maestro Pandit Nikhil Ghosh.

Recognised with a great talent at a young age, Bobby became a student of Ghosh's senior disciple Aneesh Pradhan, now one of the most sought after tabla players in the world. Through Aneesh's guidance, Bobby was nurtured into a mature and internationally renowned tabla player, both in traditional Indian classical music and cross cultural genres, and is renowned throughout Australia and internationally for his work with acts that straddle the divide between tradition and modernity.

Now a resident of Australia, he still spends most of his time between India and Australia. He regularly plays alongside cultural icons such as Grammy Award-winner Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, John Butler and Slava Grigoryan. Bobby also lends his flavour to the organic dance stylings of one of Australia's finest live electronic dance outfits, The Bird,

as well as through his work with percussion trio Circle of Rhythm and Djan Djan.

He has received numerous awards and accolades and performed with some of the finest musicians in Australia and overseas including, Greg Sheehan, Ben Walsh, David Hirschfelder, John Butler Trio, Sandy Evans, Pandit Ashok Roy, Aneesh Pradhan, Shubha Mudgal, Purbayan Chatterjee, Shashank Subramaniam, Pt Karaikudi Mani, Billy Cobham, Joseph Tawadros, Kim Sanders, Ian Dixon, Charlie McMahon, Jeremy Allsop, Sandipan Samajpati, Partho Sarathy, Tony Gorman and Adrian McNeil.

He has performed at festivals nationally and internationally including WOMAdeelaide, Woodford Folk Festival, Bellingen Global Carnival, Sydney Festival, Hyde Park Festival, Worlds Fair Bonn, Livid, Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony Melbourne, Perth International Arts Festival, Singapore Arts Festival and *Arts on the Move*, where his exciting, soulful and inspiring playing has become a highlight.

Bobby is considered one of the most experienced tabla players and is a highly respected musician in Australia's world music scene. Recently, a documentary on his musical life was recorded and shown on SBS titled *Viva, I Belong Everywhere*.

He has recorded many classical and fusion CDs featuring some of the most exciting performers in the land. Amongst his recent CDs are *Djan Djan*, a collaborative mini album with Jeff Lang and Mamadou Diabate; *Metrical* with Circle of Rhythm; *Aasha*, an Indian classical music recording with sarod player Adrian McNeil; *Ruhani*, a duet with Oud player Joseph Tawadros; *Birdville Sessions* with The Bird and a live DVD, *Live at the Studio Opera House with The Bird*. He was also featured as a guest on *Cities with The Cat Empire* and John Butler Trio's recording *Grand National*.



RIVERSIDE THEATRES

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