



Arohi is a unique performance experience of virtuoso artists playing a variety of string, wind and percussion instruments from east & west. Their original 'creative world music' blends the evocative *raga* moods and dynamic complexities of Indian classical music into a unique and exciting ensemble context.

In the spirit and freedom of jazz, additional world music elements from diverse cultures including Latin America, the Middle East, South East Asia, Africa and western classical and folk traditions are respectfully employed in a compelling and unified east/west *ragajazz* soundscape.

"Very effective and impressive approach" - **Pt. Ravi Shankar**

"The Arohi players... seamlessly combined elements of jazz, Indian classical music and Brazilian rhythms with their own stylistically unfettered improvising." - **Don Heckman, Los Angeles Times**

"Arohi Provides Exciting World Music" "Arohi transitions seamlessly between different instruments and styles. It is music that takes you on a journey." - **India Journal**

"If only the governments of our sweet planet could converse as elegantly as these musicians, exchanging the fruits of traditional culture and creating a global harmony as pleasing as the sounds of Arohi!"
- **John Schneider, Global Village, KPFK Los Angeles 90.7 fm**

AROHI ARTIST BIOS

An American born in Beirut, Lebanon **Paul Z. Livingstone** is an international performing artist known for his virtuosity on the sitar and a colorful array of stringed instruments including fretless guitars and requintos of his own design. Paul is a dynamic performer in the rigorous improvisational realm of Indian classical music and through the vehicle of his own original 'ragajazz chamber music'. He has devoted the past 23 years of his musical life to the intensive study of the sitar and the ragas of North India from his teenage days when he lived in India. Paul received his BFA & MFA from Cal Arts learning under Amiya Dasgupta, Rajeev Taranath, John Bergamo & Charlie Haden among others after which he became a protégé of the living legend maestro Ravi Shankar. Livingstone has performed throughout the US, South East Asia, Mexico, Spain and most recently in India when he was recognized in the Calcutta press as "an Indian soul in white skin". He has worked with diverse virtuoso artists such as Swapan Chaudhuri, Geetha Bennett, Kenny Burrell, Prince Diabate, Hossien Alizadeh, Ali Jihad Racy, Miroslav Tadic, the Liän Ensemble, and popular artists Ozomatli, Cypress Hill, Alanis Morissette & Rufus Wainright. In addition to leading the Arohi Ensemble he has composed scores for film, television and live theater. Paul is the Founder & Artistic Director of the Sangeet School of World Music in Los Angeles and was also on the music faculty of Cal Arts for 5 years. He has received numerous awards, grants and fellowships for his unique work and leadership in the field of 'world music synthesis' as a composer, educator and ensemble leader. His vision to blend and coalesce diverse global traditions into a compelling cross-cultural sound reflects his innermost social, political and spiritual values. Paul online: www.tanpura.com

Abhijit Banerjee is among the premier tabla players of India and is one of the most sought after performers of Indian classical music. For the past twenty years, Abhijit has crafted a unique style and creative approach, which has garnered accolades and awards from all over the world for his sensitivity, skill and deep musicality. Along with his contributions to Indian classical music he has left his mark as a crossover artist, both as a performer and composer. Abhijit has accompanied most of the major figures of Indian music including Pandit Ravi Shankar, the late Pandit Nikhil Banerjee, Begum Parweena Sultana, Pandit Jasraj, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, and Dr. Balamurali Krishnan. As a tabla soloist, he has made his mark through performances and recordings in India & abroad. His crossover work includes collaborations with musicians such as Ry Cooder, Larry Coryell and Trilok Gurtu. Abhijit founded his own touring ensemble TARANG performing his original compositions, and released a CD of the same title. He founded & established Dhvani Academy of Percussion in Los Angeles, New York, Singapore and Calcutta attracting talented students from around the world. Abhijit online: www.abhijitbanerjee.com

Venezuelan born **Pedro Eustace** is a highly creative multi-instrumental world music performer on solo woodwinds, reeds, a synthesist and composer with a unique, richly eclectic, personal voice. His multifaceted musical fluency is the direct result of years of solid studies and professional experience in the classical European, Jazz, Indian, Armenian, Arab, popular and electronic music forms. He graduated from two European conservatories in classical music, received an MFA from Cal Arts and has studied world music disciplines specifically Indian music with Ravi Shankar and Hariprasad Chaurasia, and Armenian duduk with maestro Djivan Gasparian among others. Mr. Eustache's professional activities range from solo western classical recitals and symphonic work, to jazz concerts, pop, and world music (both traditional & cross-over), in tours, live performances, recordings & lecturing. He has worked with artists of diverse backgrounds such as Paul McCartney, Yanni, Alex Acuna, Shakira, James Newton, Anoushka Shankar, Don Henley, Googoosh, Youssou N'Dour, and many others. He was principal solo flute for the Simon Bolivar/Venezuela Symphony Orchestra and has performed as a soloist with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Prague Symphony Orchestra among others. Pedro was the main world woodwinds soloist for 'Passion of the Christ' and 'Munich' among countless other sessions for film and television. Pedro online: www.pedroflute.com

Partho Sarothy is one of the finest classical musicians from India and a disciple of the legendary Pandit Ravi Shankar with whom he has performed around the world. Blessed with an exceptional artistic temperament, exacting technical precision and a rare aesthetic sensibility, Partho is considered one of the most engaging, intelligent and talented instrumentalists in Hindustani music. His exceptional artistry embodies the true heritage of Hindustani raga music and given him an international reputation of considerable distinction. Of his playing, it has been noted that "his virtuosity on the sarod makes his exploration of ragas a study in harmony and tranquility, and his serious meditative approach makes his music soar." Partho is based in Calcutta, the cultural mecca of India. He has been performing his solo concerts for the last 30 years in Europe, Australia, USA and Asia including all of the major music festivals of India. Partho online: www.parthosarodi.com

International touring artist **Somnath Roy** is one of India's most brilliant classical percussionists. He has mastered the intricacies of South Indian rhythm creating a new aesthetic in world percussion through an innovative blend of North & South Indian with creative world music. His experience ranges from western percussion, tabla, Indian folk drums such as the dolak & his speciality, the ghatam (the South Indian clay pot). Somnath has played with some of India's finest musicians including T.V. Gopalkrishnan, Amjad Ali Khan, Anindo Chatterjee and Abhijit Banerjee & Tarun Battacharaya. He received the ATN Best Percussionist Award in 2003 and has performed in Spain, Belgium and the US and was an APPEX Fellowship at UCLA in 2006. Somnath online: www.ghatamsomnath.com

Cellist **Peter Jacobson** is a performer with eclectic influences ranging from his western classical training, Indian music, to reggae, hip hop and other popular music styles. He has toured across the US, Mexico, Japan and Southeast Asia in a variety of settings from rock to classical. He performs regularly with chamber music ensembles and orchestras and has also studied the classical music of India for the past 8 years. He performs regularly with Southwest Chamber Music, Arohi Ensemble, DAKAH Hip Hop Orchestra and the Los Angeles String Collective. He is blessed and inspired to have recorded and performed with some of the finest hip hop producers, rock bands and jazz players. At USC he studied cello with the late, great Eleonore Schoenfeld and at Cal Arts with Indian master Rajeev Taranath.

Dave Lewis is sought after for his sharp musicality and proficiency as a drummer, as well for his extensive experience as a pianist and composer. From an early age, he studied classical and jazz piano, African drumming and drum set. At fourteen, he was featured on his first CD and at sixteen, became the youngest member of First Circle, a popular San Francisco Bay Area band. He attended the Berklee College of Music as a scholarship recipient. He recently completed his studies there and continues to compose, produce and perform his original works as well as recording and performing with many others in Boston and in the San Francisco Bay Area. Along with Arohi ensemble, Dave has performed with Joe Lovano, Sheila E., Jetro da Silva, Victor Mendoza, Bryan Baker, Jerome Kyles, Thaddeus Hogarth and Walfredo Reyes Sr., as well as his own quartet, and the Boston based alternative rock group, A'tris. Dave online: www.davelewismusic.com



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