

# CHORUS MANDALA

BOLLYWOOD CHOIR WITH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



WITH THE FINEST VOICES OF SYDNEY AND NATRAJ ACADEMY

AVIJIT SARKAR, VIKAS KOLAR, MAYANK SINGH, KERMAN MISTRY.  
RUCHA LANGE, SHIRLEY D'SOUZA, RASHMIE CHANDRA, SUMEDHA MANJURE.

LIVE AT THE SYDNEY CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

5:00 PM | 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 | TICKETS AT [AIO.ORG.AU](http://AIO.ORG.AU)



# A dream collaboration

Welcome to the Australian premiere of a Bollywood Choir with  
Chamber Orchestra.

This concert is the manifestation of a shared dream of Avijit  
Sarkar and Suraj Nagaraj, fusing a Bollywood Choir with  
Orchestra to create a truly unique musical experience.

8 singers comprise our “Chorus”, the Latin term for this unique  
group of singers.

A 15 piece chamber orchestra fuses with choir to form the  
Sanskrit “Mandala” - a wholesome unity of sound.

Mixing Latin with Sanskrit, East with West.

The Australian Indian Orchestra, founded by Sagar and Suraj  
Nagaraj, represents the largest collaboration between Australian  
and Indian musicians.

The choir features singers from the Natraj Academy, created by  
Avijit Sarkar - a school of Indian fine arts in Sydney.



# Program

**Gayatri Mantra**

*The mother of Vedas*

**Om Shivo Ham**

*Invocation to Lord Shiva*

**Baazigar O Baazigar**

*O magician of love*

**Yeh Raatein Yeh Mausam**

*These beautiful nights and oh! the romantic environment*

**Kehna Hi Kya**

*Oh, what is there to say since my eyes looked into a stranger's eyes*

**Chupke Se**

*Secretly and underneath the blanket of the nightly sky, may even the moon be quiet*

**Sugartime**

*1958 popular song from the McGuire Sister Trio, sharing the melody with:*

**Dil Deke Dekho**

*Try and give your heart to someone. For those who claim the love of others, it's time for them now to give love too*

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## INTERVAL

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**Bombay Theme**

*Title orchestra piece from 1995 movie of a tragic Hindu-Muslim Love Story*

**Tu Hi Re**

*It's you! How can I even live my life without you*

**Dil Tadap Tadap**

*My heart is yearning for you and calling out for you to come, having the same melody as:*

**Somewhere My Love**

*Lara's Theme from 1965 film Doctor Zhivago*

**Dil Ke Jharoke**

*I want to keep your thoughts in the depths of my heart*

**Khwaja Mere Khwaja**

*A Sufi prayer to the lord*

**Zindagi Milke Bitayange**

*We will all live life together and we will sing to the world about the state of our hearts*

**Om Shanti Om**

*A call to all those youthful hearts and a warning to not fall in love lest they lose their peace and suffer sleepless nights*

# About the AIO

Australia and India share two loves – Cricket and Curry.  
Our vision is to connect us with a third love – Music.

Founded by the brothers Sagar and Suraj Nagaraj, the Australian Indian Orchestra (AIO) melds the best Indian musicians with Australia's finest orchestra players to create a unique cultural experience.

Musicians in the AIO come from top orchestras around Australia including the Sydney Conservatorium Orchestra, Opera Australia Orchestra, and the Australian World Orchestra.

Complementing the orchestra are Sydney's finest Indian singers who will bring the stage alive with the most memorable songs from celebrated Bollywood movies and artists across the decades,

Celebrating the diversity and versatility of the cultural fabric of music in Australia, the AIO exemplifies the multicultural strength of Australia. It is a cultural gem and an inspiration for future generations of musicians in Australia and around the world.



# The Visionary



**Avijit Sarkar** is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, illustrator, cartoonist, writer, poet, puppeteer, philanthropist, and mathematician.

Since the first AIO concert, Avijit had expressed his vision for combining the orchestra with his Choir. Today it comes to fruition.

He has entertained audiences in diverse musical styles in over 1,800 concerts, celebrating his 50th year on the stage this year! His concerts have helped raise funds on his concerts go towards medical research and charity.

In 2020, Avijit received the Australia Day Award for contributions to Art and Culture and was featured in the book "Success Stories of Indo-Australians" in 2021.

Avijit is the director of Natraj Academy Sydney, where he trains and supports emerging musical talents in fine Indian Arts, some of whom you are seeing singing in the choir live tonight!



# Two Brothers



Well known in both the Australian and Indian music scenes, Suraj is a highly versatile musician known for his virtuosity and precision in performance.

A highly sought-after violinist, conductor and composer, Suraj authentically transcribes and performs Bollywood songs. He has amassed an international following on his YouTube channel “Suraj Nagaraj Violin” and his online music store “Nagaraj Music”.

Suraj has meticulously arranged all the pieces you are hearing tonight and conducted the singers’ rehearsals to be able to bring together this unique concert.



Sagar Nagaraj is an Australian-Indian violinist. He is the Artistic Director and Concertmaster of the Rosemont Chamber Orchestras and 1st Violin of the Rosemont String Quartet.

Having come through the Sydney and Australian Youth Orchestras, Sagar understands the importance of education and the profound impact of providing young musicians with opportunities.

In 2018, Sagar toured with the Australian World Orchestra across India, performing in Chennai, Mumbai, and in Kerala, sparking the idea for the Australian Indian Orchestra.

# The Choir



Vikas Kolar



Avijit Sarkar



Mayank Singh



Kerman Mistry



Rashmie Chandra



Rucha Lange



Sumedha Manjure



Shirley D'Souza



# The Orchestra



## **Violin**

Sagar Nagaraj  
Khang Mai  
Bonita Silva  
Tim Dickinson

## **Viola**

Spencer Oxnam  
Ashur Varde

## **Cello**

Nazli Sendurgut  
Alexandra Boyling

## **Bass**

George Machadao

## **Harp**

Kaela Phillips

## **Flute**

Sabin Ghising

## **Trumpet**

Panagiotis Karamanos

## **French Horn**

Lucy Smith

## **Guitar / Keys**

Ganathipan Aruneswaran

## **Drums**

Preetam Telugu

## **Tabla**

Abhijit Dan

## **Percussion**

Bryn Wood





# Support Us

Due to the scale of a unique project like this, we run at a loss.

However, that does not stop us and the musicians from contributing something unique to the cultural fabric of Australia.

Without the generous support of our donors, the Australian Indian Orchestra would simply not be possible.

If you enjoyed this evening's concert and would like to see us grow, please consider donating to our mission to uniting Australia and India with music.

*Any amount over \$2 is tax-deductible.*

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