



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.







# O magician of love

Baazigar O Baazigar

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

## **INTERVAL**

### **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 depts 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.







**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 om 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.





Vikas Kolar



Avijit Sarkar



Mayank Singh



Kerman Mistry



Rashmie Chandra



Rucha Lange



Sumedha Manjure



Shirley D'Souza







## **Violin**

Sagar Nagaraj

Khang Mai

Bonita Silva

Tim Dickinson

## Viola

Spencer Oxnam

Ashur Varde

## Cello

Nazli Sendurgut

Alexandra Boyling

## **Bass**

George Machadao

# Harp

## **Flute**

Sabin Ghising

# **Trumpet**

Panagiotis Karamanos

## **French Horn**

**Lucy Smith** 

# **Guitar / Keys**

Ganathipan Aruneswaran

## **Drums**

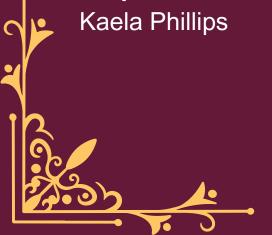
Preetam Telugu

## Tabla

Abhijit Dan

## **Percussion**

Bryn Wood





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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