

Manish Vyas

CRITICAL ACCLAIM FROM FUSION LOVERS AND PANDITS

Manish Vyas is a unique phenomenon in the world of fusion music. A talented multi-instrumentalist and singer, over the last few years he has emerged as both an extraordinary performing and recording artist.

Growing up in a family passionate about Indian music exposed him to the many different forms of music; from classical to 'kirtan' and folk. Music, one could say, is quite simply in his blood.

Realizing his talent at an early age, his mother initiated him into tabla when he was nine. A few years of basic instruction led him to the feet of the maestro Ustad Allarakha, where his training continued for a further five years.

It was during this same time that Vyas was exposed to a totally new genre of music - namely world and fusion - through meeting a variety of musicians from around the world at the famous Osho Commune International, Pune. Continuous experimentation with these musicians expanded his musical horizons beyond the traditional Indian classical form. During this time a new found passion for melody led him to pick up the santoor - a 100 stringed instrument - and from there he moved first to singing, then harmonium and keyboards.

In depth involvement with numerous world musicians, in addition to Manish's undoubted talents and versatility, eventually brought him into the international limelight. Most notable is his collaboration with world famous fusion maestro, Prem Joshua; first as a band member of the popular Hamsafar and then as a successful fusion duo, East West Alchemy. Together they have shared a musical partnership of over 15 years and toured extensively in Europe, USA, India, Israel and Singapore.

Manish is also held in high regard as a composer with a talent for creating beautiful melodies evidenced by the fact that mantra queen Deva Premal has featured many of his compositions on her cd's. Over the years, in addition to being a performer and recording artist for various musicians from around the world, Manish has crafted 7 albums; *Rejoicing*, *Sufi Splendour*, *Water Down the Ganges*, *Sattva*, *India Trance Live*, *Healing Ragas* and *Healing Ragas 2*.

Each one of these albums has a totally different flavor - a true indication of just how versatile and far reaching Vyas's musical talent is. From the ancient spiritual roots of Sufism and Hinduism to the pulsating rhythms of contemporary dance; from



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music for relaxation, to sounds for meditation, all these flavors have been explored extensively.

Over the years, Manish has given countless live concerts and enthralled audiences around the world. The record breaking number so far was 50,000 in Coimbatore, India at the Isha Fest, 2004 where his then newly formed band, India Trance, were billed alongside renowned classical singer, Vani Jairam.

With a fan base of young and old, east and west, traditional and new-age, Manish Vyas has touched and inspired people in every corner of the globe and continues to bring his unique form of creativity to an ever more appreciative audience.

radar THE BEST IN EMERGING MUSIC

EMERGENCE

Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India

FILE NEXT TO: SARASWATI

An acoustic Indo-fusion band from the International Township of Auroville, South India, Emergence is a blend of diverse cultural backgrounds and musical experience. Pushing the boundaries of their own cultural identities by singing in English, Tamil and French, the music of Emergence is flavored by the poetic lyricism and multi-layered harmonic guitar textures played by Krishna which blend with Carnatic melodies played on the violin and sung in Tamil by Kirupa. This, backed by the expressive tallams, funk, and jazz rhythm grooves of Lowell Harrison, and the exquisite bass playing of Mishko M'Ba, makes up the unique fusion sound of Emergence.

myspace.com/emergencemusic

DAVID WHETSTONE

Location: Minnesota, USA

FILE NEXT TO: USTAD NISHAT KHAN

With more than 25 years of learning and sitar playing experience in India and the USA, David has also been writing for Western voice and instrumentation since 1994. He was disciple of the late, legendary sitarist Ustad Vilayat Khan. David co-founded Minneapolis' Ragamala Music and Dance Theater, and created the repertoire for this group. He studied music privately with Philip Meyers, solo hornist of the New York Philharmonic, for five years. Currently he lives in Minneapolis, and teaches sitar at Macalester and Carleton Colleges and private. He prefers playing in many formats (jazz, rock, world and fusion, folk, TV and film, documentaries etc), as well as Indian classical and folk music.

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CONTRASTS AND SUBTLETIES

Nadaka and the Basavaraj Brothers

Guitarist Nadaka and the Basavaraj Brothers' great music based upon classical Indian music themes, in a contemporary way that is flavoured with what can be called 'that fusion feel.' The music is reminiscent of groups like Shakti, while violin player Raghavendra might bring to mind Jean-luc Ponty. Just like in jazz, spontaneous additional improvisation is an important aspect here. Like the guitar and also the violin player, some musicians get a few solo parts, opening dialogues, and it is nice to hear how each member adds his own vitality to the composition. Nadaka's custom made guitar in conjunction with Indian instruments like sitar, tambura, flute and percussion (tabla, pallavi, kanjira and mridangam), and the improvised violin, create incredible fusion music. Sometimes slightly jazzy, always colorful, with mood varying according to the composition. The addition of vocals in different Indian styles contribute beautifully, embellishing the music while being completely intrinsic. A heady combination indeed, marvelous creativity, with disarming, clarifying spontaneity. Refreshing fusion that is compelling and colorful and carries the essence of traditional music into our modern world.

SUB WOOFER

"Those who danced were thought to be quite insane by those who could not hear the music." - Angela Monet.