



Sandeep Das & the HUM Ensemble - Performance Options

Concert Option 1 | Tabla Solo



Instruments: Tabla, Melody instrument (Sarangi/Sitar/Flute) | (2 players total)

Synopsis

Sandeep Das has been internationally recognized as one of the foremost modern exponents of the Benares *gharana* of Tabla playing. Having trained intensely by living with his Guru for 12 years, he went on to perform with some of the most iconic Indian Classical Musicians of all time, such as Pt. Ravi Shankar, Ust. Amjad Ali Khan, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, and Dr. L. Subramaniam, among others.

A typical Tabla solo by Sandeep is accompanied by a melodic instrument and constitutes an awe-inspiring glimpse into the vast heritage of the Indian rhythmic traditions by masterfully winding through spontaneous improvisations, dancing through complex *Taal*, and unveiling a breathtaking collection of ancient compositions that have been passed down from teacher to student for thousands of years.

Performance Sample: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wg3W3zJlh70>

Additional options available on next page.

Concert Option 2 | Sandeep Das: *Taal Raag Mudra*



Instruments/Dance forms: Tabla, Dance (Kathak/Odissi), Sarangi / Sitar | (3 - 4 artists total)

Synopsis

The subtle dialogue and rhythmic interplay between musician and dancer is an art form that has been cultivated and refined in India for thousands of years. Showcasing the elegant Odissi and fiery Kathak dance styles coupled with the pulsating rhythms of the Tabla, these performances have dazzled audiences across the globe with an enchanting visual display of mastery and melody.

Early in his career, Sandeep Das established himself as a master of Tabla playing with these Indian Classical Dance forms. Like his Guru— the legendary Pt. Kishan Maharaj— before him, he became the most sought-after Tabla player leading such performances. A typical Tabla and dance presentation gives the viewer an amazing insight into the world of Indian Classical dance and rhythm through exciting vocal compositions, *Sawal-Jawab* (“Question and Answer”, a style first introduced in Indian Classical Music by his Guru), and myriad other rhythmic interplays presenting the audience with the art in its purest, most authentic form.

Performance Sample: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQyh-qXOUu>

(Please note that this performance used more players than this option lists. The number stated above is correct.)

Option 3 | Sandeep Das & the HUM Ensemble: *Delhi to Damascus*



Instruments: Tabla, Sarangi / Sitar / Oud / Voice / Qanun / Flute | (4 artists total)

Synopsis

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, a Sanskrit shloka, means “the world is one family.” For centuries, the human spirit has been transcending literal and figurative borders to survive and thrive. Inspired by the confluence of cultures this brings, *Delhi to Damascus*— both the Project and the HUM Ensemble’s debut album— is a celebration of the shared history between India and the Middle East. These countries were major trade centers of the legendary Silk Road and flourished with a vibrant cultural, musical and linguistic exchange, exemplified by their common Sufi music tradition and the ancient Indo-Iranian and Indo-European Sanskrit script.

A collaboration between Indian Classical/Semi-Classical music and Middle-Eastern music, *Delhi to Damascus* concerts feature some of the most iconic instruments of these countries. The eclectic and soulful repertoire, a mix of new compositions and rearrangements, draws on traditional Indian ragas, melodic Arabic *maqams*, philosophical Sufi poems, pulsating folk grooves, and lyrical *thumri*. An earnest quest to start a dialogue, spark compassion, and stimulate the imagination to see beyond geographical borders, *Delhi to Damascus* is a musical invitation to a spiritual odyssey, inspired by the spirit of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—the beautiful ideal of inclusion, empathy, global community, and humanitarianism.

Performance Samples:

- Performance Samples - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-pQfKzFkOA>
- “Parvaaz-e Noor”, a track from the ensemble’s upcoming album (please do not distribute link) - [Link](#)
- Official *Delhi to Damascus* website [here](#).

Additional options available on next page.

Concert Option 4 | Sandeep Das & the HUM Ensemble: *Soundscapes of India*



Instruments: Tabla, Sarangi / Sitar / Indian Vocalist | (3 artists total)

Synopsis

The timeless chronicles of Hindustani (North Indian) Classical music have touched the hearts of countless audience members in countries across the globe with an enchanting repertoire that has been cultivated and passed down through the millennia. Through a complex web of Raga and rhythm, *Soundscapes of India* exemplifies that rich heritage and features a selection of some of the most well-known Ragas and folk songs of the Indian Classical repertoire.

Performance Sample: <https://youtu.be/HPykoxjJhpg>

Additional options available on next page.

Concert Option 5 | “Culturally IN-Appropriate”

culturally
INappropriate

Sandeep Das
and friends on

Sitar
Piano
Bass
Kanun
Oud
Violin

Saturday, October 19 at 8 pm
Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance
97 Kaulbach St. Lunenburg, NS
Tickets \$45 | Available from Shop on the Corner or call 902-634-8667

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Instruments: Tabla, Sitar, Piano, Bass, Percussion, Kanun, Oud, Violin | (8 players total)

Synopsis

In 2018, the Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance (LAMP) - described as the 'Banff of the East Coast' - brought together for a cultural extravaganza a stellar group of eight world musicians. Led by Grammy-winning tabla player Sandeep Das, amongst others it also has JUNO-winning pianist and composer Dinuk Wijeratne, and other members on Oud, Qanun, Sitar, Violin, Bass and Percussion. The program consists of folk, traditional, and classical music from almost all of the countries represented by the ensemble (India, Sri Lanka, Canada, Italy, Syria, and Turkey). 'Culturally IN-appropriate' is one the most successful sold-out concerts at LAMP, and one attendee compared it to a 'spiritual experience'. A return tour happened in October 2019, and was also recorded for broadcast by CBC radio. It was sold out 6 months in advance.

Performance Sample: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQ-LtSYD2Kw>

Additional options available on next page.

Concert Option 6 | Soul Yatra Trio



Instruments: Tabla, Cello, Erhu | (3 players total)

Synopsis

Dynamic and novel, *Soul Yatra* is a unique collaboration that spans the three lush cultural traditions of India (Tabla), China (Erhu), and Europe/America (Cello). The upbeat repertoire of the trio dances jovially through traditional tunes, reimaginings of folk songs, and a colorful collection of original compositions and arrangements inspired by their journeys across the globe.

Performance Sample: <https://vimeo.com/256615853>

Additional options available on next page.

Concert Option 7 | Sandeep Das & Mike Block: *East Meets West*



Members: Tabla, Cello | (2 players total)

Synopsis

Sandeep Das & Mike Block are a groundbreaking, cross-genre duo that originally met as members of Yo-Yo Ma's Grammy Award-winning Silk Road Ensemble. By drawing from their respective traditions and folk songs such as "Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram" and "Where the Soul Never Dies", the pair has crafted a one of a kind program that frequently tours and gives residencies at universities and schools throughout the world.

Performance Samples:

- Concert Clip - [Link](#)
- More media is also available on [Mike Block's website](#).

Additional options available on next page.

Concert Option 8 | Tabla Concerto



Instruments: Tabla Soloist + Orchestra (1 player total, orchestra not included)

Synopsis

Sandeep Das' experience with the world of Western Classical music began in 2001, when he performed with Yo-Yo Ma and the New York Philharmonic for four world-premiere concerts. Since then, he has been collaborating regularly with major symphony orchestras on new world music compositions, as well as performing multiple Tabla concertos with orchestras across the U.S. Some of his most recent concerto performances were with Symphony Tacoma, the South Bend Symphony, and the Asheville Symphony.

Concerto Option 1 - Wijeratne Tabla Concerto

The Wijeratne Concerto for Tabla and Orchestra is a daring and innovative composition that bridges the worlds of Western and Indian Classical music, drawing equally on influences from both traditions. Roughly 30 minutes in length, the concerto begins with an fast-paced movement described by Wijeratne as a “quasi-Baroque canon in four parts [...] characterized by rapid ‘breakbeat’ rhythms in the percussion” that places the Tabla

“in a decidedly non-Indian context”. The work progresses through the second movement to a setting of a lyrical Indian folk song, and concludes with an exciting final movement inspired by virtuosic Tabla compositions and an orchestral take on an Indian *nagma* which “kaleidoscopically changes colour from start to finish”.

A complete score of the concerto, as well as instrumentation and extended program notes, is available on Dinuk Wijeratne’s website: <http://www.dinukwijeratne.com/tabla-concerto/>

Performance Sample: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQkU3P2XijE>

Concerto Option 2 - Mumbai by Evan Ziporyn

The following is an excerpt from an article by NPR Music about this piece. The full article is available [here](#).

“In his written introduction to this recording, Ziporyn notes the upsetting circumstances that surrounded the composition of this work, which features tabla player Sandeep Das with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and conductor Gil Rose. In 2008, just after Ziporyn began writing, terrorist attacks in Mumbai, including at VT, shook India and the rest of the world. As his response to those events, the piece's three movements became structured as Before, During and After. But *Mumbai* isn't a work that catalyzes grief. Instead, it's luminous and dreamlike, unfolding with a glow and a sense of wonder both intimate and soaring. This is music you climb inside as the tabla cuts through the gleaming strings.

Ziporyn's way of framing the excellent Das, a member of the Silk Road Ensemble, as soloist carries a deep satisfaction for lovers of Indian classical music.”

Performance Samples: [Mvt. 1](#) | [Mvt. 2](#) | [Mvt. 3](#)