

MEDIA RELEASE

18 December 2010



JAI HO!

Australia Day Indian concert at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl – FREE EVENT

Date: Tuesday 26 January, 2010

Time: 3:30pm to 6pm

Venue: Sidney Myer Music Bowl

King's Domain, Linlithgow Avenue, Melbourne (Melway Reference Ref 2F K8)

Australia Day coincides with Indian Republic Day so let's all celebrate together!

On Tuesday 26th January, the Sidney Myer Music Bowl will explode with talent from across Victoria's diverse Indian communities. The **JAI HO! Indian concert** will feature classical elements as well as vivacious folk dance numbers and culminate in a spectacular Bollywood celebration of song and dance.

Jai Ho! translates to "may victory be yours" and will no doubt ring familiar as the theme song to successful Bollywood film '*Slumdog Millionaire*'. The Australia Day **Jai Ho! Indian concert** will feature its very own success story, with **Gary Pinto**, Australian Idol back-up vocalist of Indian descent, debuting his brand new song '*This is Australia*' live at the event.

Popular Bollywood DJ and MC, **Richi Madan** will be joined on stage by the renowned **Dya Singh** world music group, offering their contemporary and often quirky spin to Sikh spiritual music. Six-piece Bollywood band **The Mumbai Mail** will play a selection of Indian silver screen hits from the 70s to today in Bollywood style costume. The band will also support three special guest acts hand-picked from Melbourne's Indian community, including bansuri flautist, **Vinod Prasanna**, charismatic vocalist **Gurmit Singh** and the elevating harmonies of a choir and veena ensemble, lead by **Sivaganga Sahathevan**.

For lovers of dance, Jai Ho! will not disappoint! A **folk dance parade** featuring 30 dancers and dhol drummers plus a special Bollywood performance by Indo-Jazz gurus, the **Shiamak Dance Troupe**, are set to create an unforgettable scene worthy of such an auspicious venue.

In addition to the feast of music and dance on stage, Indian food and beverage vendors will set up at the Bowl alongside a **Rangoli Competition**. Teams producing colourful floor art designs using coloured sand, grains and rice in the customary Indian expression of hospitality, will compete for a \$500 prize! Competition entrants are still welcome to register a team and can do so by emailing the event organizer (details below). More information below.

The **Jai Ho!** concert is presented by the Australia Day Committee (Victoria) in association with Multicultural Arts Victoria and the Arts Centre. More information about Australia Day events is available at the Australia Day website: www.australiaday.vic.gov.au

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The Artists



Richi Madan – DJ/MC

Well known in the Australian Bollywood scene as a live Dhol drummer, Events DJ & Manager, MC, Music Producer, Journalist, Presenter and Radio DJ (www.richimadan.com.au) Richi has a show on Monday nights on PBS 106.7FM titled 'Mumbai Masala' and runs a production company called 'Rhythm & Spice'.



Dya Singh - Classical Fusion Music Group

The basis of the music is Sikh (spiritual), Punjabi and North Indian. It then embraces music virtually from any other part of the globe including blues, jazz, folk (all kinds), country & western, country, Australian indigenous, bush, etc. Produced 19 albums in 15 years and twice been awarded 'Instrumentalist of the year' by SAMIA (South Australian Music Industry awards).

The Mumbai Mail – Bollywood Band

The Mumbai Mail is a fresh and exciting new band made up of six well established Melbourne musicians, all but one of Indian descent. The band plays an energetic and highly danceable set packed with Bollywood hits ranging from the 70's to modern day Indian pop. With male and female vocalists, a diverse range of percussion, guitar, bass and keys, the Mumbai Mail recreate a broad repertoire of Indian covers drawing from some of India's most popular recording artists including Asha Bhosle, Kishor Kumar, Sukvinder Singh and Kailesh Kher.



Vinod Prasana – Flute player

Indian bamboo flute player Vinod Prasanna presents Indian classical music at it's most passionate. From the King's Court of old to the modern music stage, Vinod continues a 250 year family tradition of Indian flute playing. Whether it's performing Indian classical music or fusing with folk, Arabic and other world music forms, Vinod's performance is mesmerizing. The Yamaha Music Company, Japan hosted Vinod in 2006. The International Arts School in Munich, Germany hosted him in 2007. He performs throughout India and now, Australia.



Gurmit Singh Sahni – Vocalist

A favourite for stage performances all over Australia, Gurmit is known to sing nostalgic hits from the 50's and 60's, with as much ease and finesse as he sings Punjabi folk songs and the modern toe-tapping Bollywood hits. He won several major televised singing competitions in India and recorded for films and performing in live concerts alongside legendary stars. Veterinary Science graduate from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, now living in Melbourne and has certainly made his mark in his new home. Gurmit has performed at the MCG and Federation Square to adoring local crowds.



Smt Sivaganga Sahathevan – Choir and veena ensemble

Born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, Sivaganga hails from a talented musical family and has received special training under renowned classical Indian musicians from the age of five. Sivaganga migrated to Australia and commenced teaching carnatic vocal and veena (South Indian style sitar) in 1997, affiliating her school to the Chandrabhanu Bharatalaya Academy. She sang and accompanied Chandrabhanu and Bharatalaya Academy's arrangements. She has performed in Perth, Sydney, Canberra and the United Kingdom.

Folkloric Dance Parade and Performance

Working with prominent members of the Indian arts community, a collaborative dance presentation is being coordinated that will represent folkloric dance styles from the various regions of India. **Dr Chandrabhanu** will direct this folk dance parade and performance.



Dr Chandrabhanu studied in Bharata Natyam Indian classical dance at the Usha Prema School of Indian Classical Dance, Malaysia from 1957 to 1973. Chandrabhanu has choreographed almost 50 major choreographic works, productions and performances in Bharata Natyam, Odissi and contemporary dance styles throughout his career. He is artistic director and principal of Chandrabhanu Bharatalaya Academy of Indian Classical Dance and Music, Melbourne.



Shiamak Dancers – Bollywood dance

Shiamak Davar is India's No. 1 choreographer, whose award winning work can be seen in Bollywood films Dil To Pagal Hai, Taal, Kisna, Bunty aur Babli, Dhoom 2 and I See You. Shiamak Davar Dance Company operates from India, Canada and Australia and is world renowned for stunning Bollywood "Indo-Jazz" dance performances. This Melbourne arm of the company coordinated the Bollywood dance spectacular that wowed international audiences at the closing of the Melbourne Commonwealth Games.



Rangoli Competition

GRAND PRIZE \$500!

Rangoli is Indian floor art using coloured sand, grains, seeds and flowers and is a customary expression of hospitality shared on special occasions. Enter the Rangoli Competition on Australia Day at the Bowl for your chance to win the grand prize!

- Entry is free. All materials provided for you.
- Form a team with your friends and/or family of no more than four (4) people.
- Email to register your team no later than Monday 11 January 2010: fiesta@multiculturalarts.com.au
- Create your Rangoli design at the Australia Day Indian Concert
- The audience will vote on the day for the winner to be determined.