

Inspired by the cultural traditions of India; Raga (music), Mantra (chants) and Tala (rhythm), combined with World sounds and enlivened by a distinctively fresh, modern approach. Performing as a Trio with other renowned guest artists, we are "RagaMantra"



N A D A K A plays the Raga Guitar (24 string Geet-Taar) & vocal. His one of a kind, Indianised acoustic guitar combines multiple Indian string instruments into one, and also produces live synthesized sounds.

G O P I K A sings stirring ragas and ancient Sanskrit chants that were passed down orally in India for centuries. Her heartfelt rendition of these deep ethereal sounds communicates a sense of well being to her listeners.

K E S H A V A plays the Tabla, and freely improvises on complex rhythmic patterns. Coming from India's great classical tradition, the tabla is considered to be one of the most expressive percussion instruments in the world.



Nādakā was born and raised in Québec City and began his musical journey on the guitar at a very young age. At 16, drawn by eastern philosophies and seeking adventure, he travelled by sea and overland to finally reach India, his adopted country. Nadaka was an early habitant and pioneer of Auroville, the international township in South India, which has been his home for over 40 years. His love and passion for Indian culture led him to study its music, study vocal and Indian string instruments, especially the Veena and Sarod. As a matter of course, East & West combined in life and art. During his travels throughout South India, Nadaka becomes inspired by his regular meetings with renowned Veena and Tanpura maker Ramji of Trichy, a

prominent Tamil culture & musicology scholar. That is when Nadaka embarked on a lifelong project to craft a unique acoustic guitar that would gradually evolve into a 24-string instrument that allowed him to emulate the subtle tones in Indian music. He wittingly calls this one-of-a-kind instrument the "Geet-Taar" from the Sanskrit, "Singing-Strings," combining elements of the veena, swaramandal, tanpura, and even guitar; into one. Over time, he also integrated high-tech electronics into his instrument, allowing him to create orchestral soundscapes.

Nadaka is renowned for his virtuosity and signature contemplative sound, which seamlessly combines traditional Indian music with contemporary styles. With many successful albums to his credit, he was recording and performing with many recognized Indian musicians such as A.R. Rahman/Film composer, Ganesh-Kumaresh/violin, Shivamani/drums, Vikku Vinayakram, and his son Selvaganesh/ Carnatic percussionists. He has also toured extensively for concerts and workshops sharing the stage with his partner Gopika vocalist and her son Keshava/tabla.

nadaka.com



Journey through ragas

Behind the experimental musician Nadaka's performance at a Worli venue earlier this week lies a four-decade-long story. We caught up with him to discuss about the move from Canada, his quest and inspiration

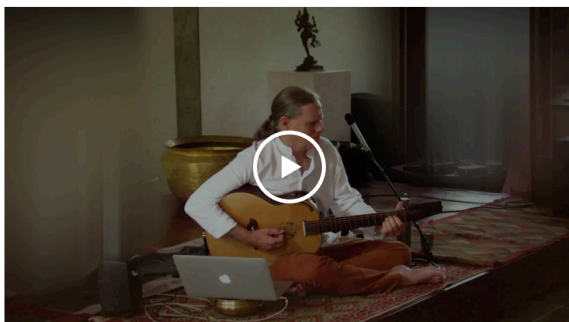
SHRIRAM IVENGAR
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It's a quiet afternoon when we catch Nadaka practising his ragas at a Malabar Hill apartment. "Vaango (welcome)", he says in Tamil, throwing the first surprise our way in this musical in-

more strings running along the body. We count: four tanpura strings, six guitar strings accompanied by two additional chikari (sadan/minor note) strings and a 12-string swaramandal, too. "I often say there are 23 strings, with me being the 24th," he jokingly adds.

The ragas guitar with its many modifications. PG/SAHYED SAMIR ARORA

Read - Bombay Mid-Day Article



"Music at once virtuosic, complex, and contemplative."

Nadaka has delved not only into Indian musicology, but has also tinkered some technical innovations with the western guitar in order to adapt the instrument to accommodate microtonal scales of a hybridized musical style between Western and Indian traditions. Nadaka's own revolutionary solution was to create a guitar with a scalloped neck, mobile frets like those of a sitar, tuned to perfect 5ths. Pure gearheadedness? Not on your life... His music stands testament that the carpentry is done truly in service to the music.

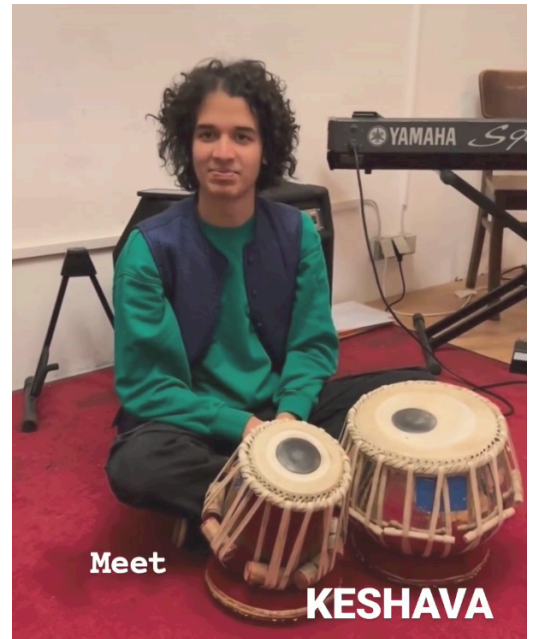
Minor Seventh *The Acoustic Guitar Magazine*

Gopikā is a multidisciplinary artist actively involved in Music, Visual Arts, and Education. Born in Mumbai, India, her mother, Prafulla Dahanukar, was a well-known artist and patron of the arts. Gopika grew up taking lessons in Hindustani classical singing and was later drawn to the study of Sanskrit mantra chanting. She for over 15 years in South India at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Auroville where she first met Nadaka. Along with music, she also pursues other artistic forms such as Visual art and photography. Currently, as a synthesis of her research in visual form and Vedic sound, she is creating immersive art installations that are meditative in nature. Her artistic aim is “to create both art and music that bring awareness and state of quiet.” Gopika’s voice has a soulful quality that reflects her seeking spirit.



gopika.com

Keshava is a highly gifted young musician with an inborn aptitude for music and rhythm. He first played Tabla at the age of two and has been performing since a very young age. For the Opening Ceremony of the Common Wealth Games 2010 in New Delhi, he performed center stage, surrounded by more than a thousand percussionists from the different States of India. Audiences around the world shared a moment of great joy seeing the beaming smile of this 7-year-old Tabla prodigy. Keshava is a natural performer and he has shared the stage with many artists. He also regularly joins Nadaka and Gopika on stage and for recordings. His music guru is Pandit Yogesh Samsi, who has played a significant role in shaping his musical abilities. Presently, Keshava is studying World Percussion at the Cici Music Conservatory in Vienna.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keshava_\(musician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keshava_(musician))

