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Eclectic sounds of Sultans of String coming to...



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Eclectic sounds of Sultans of String coming to Meadowvale Theatre



The Sultans of String

The Sultans of String have a concert on Friday (Nov. 13) in Mississauga at Meadowvale Theatre.

Mississauga News

By [Chris Clay](#)

Both Chris McKhool and Anwar Khurshid knew the tune.

However, when it came to its name, they each knew it as something different.

To McKhool, violinist and bandleader of Toronto's Sultans of String, it was called *Rakes of Mallow* and was an ancient Irish fiddle tune. To Khurshid, it was played on the sitar and was known as *Band Sargham*. McKhool, who was speaking to The News in advance of the band's concert this Friday (Nov. 13) at Meadowvale Theatre, said that he heard Khurshid playing the song one day to warm up and recognized it right away. Despite their different musical upbringings, the two men were able to find commonality through music.

"I think it underlines the point of just how international music is," said McKhool.

The two musicians first met a number of years ago at a corporate gig and they hit it off almost immediately.

When it came time to write for the band's latest album *Subcontinental Drift*, McKhool and the band's founding guitarist Kevin Laliberté invited Khurshid to join them as a special guest. Khurshid was a good compliment to the band's sound that's a mish-mash of Celtic, Spanish, Arabic, Cuban and South Asian rhythms.

“It was quite an experience for Kevin and I to write with Anwar,” said McKhool. “All sense of time went out the window and we were able to create some really beautiful music together.”

Khurshid, whose music has been featured in movies such as *Life of Pi*, sings and plays the sitar on the new album, which was released in September. The 10-track release includes *Rakes of Mallow* with Rouge River Valley plus Bob Dylan’s *Blowin’ In the Wind* and *Journey to Freedom*, which is based on Khurshid’s story of emigrating from Pakistan to his new home Canada.

Khurshid will be performing live with the band during the Mississauga concert. There will also be a dance performance by Quebec performer Genevieve Beaulieu during the show.

The Sultans of String formed about a decade ago and has received two Juno Award nominations. Last year, the band won World Group of the Year at the SIRIUSXM Independent Music Awards and has also won several Canadian Folk Music Awards.

Sultans of String also includes bassist Drew Birston, percussionist Rosendo Chendy Leon and guitarist Eddie Paton.

Show time is 8 p.m.

Tickets cost \$22-\$27. To purchase, call 905-615-4720.

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