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Sultans Of String Brings Alive An Ancient Tune



Toronto: JUNO Award Nominees and 2014 SiriusXM Award Winners Sultans of String, are serving up a smorgasbord of ragas, reels 'n' rumbason in their new release, Subcontinental Drift, with sitar master Anwar Khurshid (Oscar winning Life of Pi, Love Guru), at Trinity St. Paul's Centre, Oct 30 (8pm). The evening will be hosted by CBC Fresh Air's Mary Ito and features such special guests as Ravi Naimpally on tabla (Tasa) and dancer Genevieve Beaulieu.

Sultans of String are particularly excited about this east-meets-west offering. "There is something magical about joining world

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music rhythms that we often play, but with pop sensibilities and forms and lengths, and blending that with the music of the East”, says bandleader/ fiddler Chris McKhool.

Their latest release is a musical promise that embraces differences while finding common ground across culture, land, and time. “One of the songs we wrote together, “Journey to Freedom”, actually traces Anwar’s journey from Pakistan to Canada and finding his new home here,” he adds. “He’s become a great musical and personal friend.” says McKhool, whose name would have been spelled Makhoul in Kfarmishki, Lebanon, the land of his ancestors. “Together we started writing songs about the freedom and equality we experience living here in Canada, about finding ourselves, and our hope of creating a better world. And I feel in some way that these songs reflect our own personal journeys towards finding a world peace.”

“Anwar and I discovered that we knew a tune in common with different names. There’s an ancient Irish fiddle tune called “Rakes of Mallow”. It also made its way to England and when the English were ruling India, I guess the English and the local Indian musicians were playing and learning from each other musically. I knew it on the fiddle and Anwar knew it slightly differently on the sitar. In India they have been calling it “Band Sargham” and our two interpretations of the tune totally matched and locked in together”.

Adds Khurshid, “There is this musical connection between us, but what I noticed the first time I came here and played with you guys, was this wonderful humanity and generosity... such a nice welcome you had for me. It was really soul-enhancing.”

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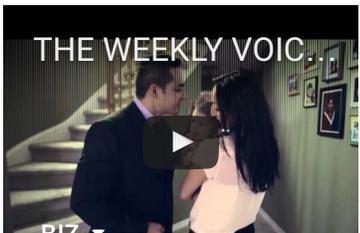
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