

Pianist **Vijay Iyer** (VID-jay EYE-yer) introduces his newest project, **Tirtha** (pronounced "TEER-tha"), an exciting and dynamic trio collaboration with two internationally renowned young Indian musicians living in the US. Pioneering guitarist **Prasanna** is a celebrated virtuoso of South Indian classical music as well as an accomplished composer in Western traditions. The prodigiously gifted tabla player **Nitin Mitta** has emerged rapidly as one of North America's most in-demand Indian percussionists. Performing original compositions by Iyer and Prasanna, the trio generates an astonishingly full ensemble sound, achieving a natural and organic synthesis of traditions. The result is a 21st-century global chamber music that is eminently listenable and vibrantly alive. Iyer says of this new project, "You can't call it fusion because we're not self-conscious about the ingredients. We're just drawing from who we are as citizens of the world."

VIJAY IYER is one of today's most acclaimed young jazz pianists and composers. He has released thirteen albums, most recently *Historicity*, which was named #1 jazz album of 2009 by the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, the Los Angeles Times, National Public Radio, and the annual Village Voice jazz critics poll. In May 2010 the Vijay Iyer Trio received the prestigious ECHO Award in Germany as the best International Ensemble of the year, and Iyer was nominated for five Jazz Journalists Association "Jazz Awards" as Musician of the Year, Composer of the Year, Album of the Year, Pianist of the Year, and Small Group of the Year. In recent years, Iyer won the *Downbeat* Magazine International Critics' Poll in the Rising Star Jazz Artist, Composer, and Pianist categories, was named Up & Coming Musician of the Year in the JJA Jazz Awards, and received the CalArts Alpert Award in the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, and numerous composer commissions. Iyer has composed orchestral and chamber works; scored for film, theater, radio and television; collaborated with poets and choreographers; and joined forces with artists in hip-hop, rock, experimental, electronic, and Indian classical music. He has worked extensively with Steve Coleman, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Mike Ladd, Roscoe Mitchell, Wadada Leo Smith, Amiri Baraka, Butch Morris, Oliver Lake, dead prez, Karsh Kale, Talvin Singh, Imani Uzuri, and DJ Spooky, among others.

Iyer teaches at New York University, The New School, and School for Improvisational Music. His writings appear in *Music Perception*, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, *Current Musicology*, *JazzTimes*, *Wire*, *The Guardian*, and the anthologies *Uptown Conversation*, *Sound Unbound*, and *Arcana IV*. He is a Steinway artist.

In a world studded with brilliant guitarists, '**Prasanna** plays like nobody on the planet' according to one Jazz critic. As a guitarist and composer, Prasanna's

prolific body of work is as diverse as it is integrated. This includes over eleven Carnatic albums, the just released Carnatic/Rock Jimi Hendrix tribute album 'Electric Ganesha Land', a highly acclaimed Jazz Fusion album 'Be the Change' featuring several Grammy Award winning artists from the Jazz world, an eclectic solo guitar album 'Peaceful', a special triple guitar project 'Guitars' with the Belgian band Aka Moon, and numerous guitar tracks on multi-platinum Indian film soundtracks for such top composers as A.R. Rahman, Ilayaraja and many more.

The North Sea Jazz Festival, Middelheim Jazz Festival, Festival Guitares Du Monde, La Fete de la Musique, Les Orientales De St. Florent Le Vieil, Festival Jazz En Artois, PanaFest, Lotus world music festival are some of the top international festivals Prasanna has performed at. He has performed/recorded with legendary names in the Jazz/ Fusion world including Joe Lovano, Larry Coryell, Anthony Jackson, Omar Hakim, Victor Wooten, Airto Moreira, Alphonso Johnson, Aka Moon, Trilok Gurtu, Steve Smith etc and from the Indian music world such as A.R.Rahman, Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Ilayaraja, Dr. L. Subramaniam, Umayalpuram Sivaraman, Trichy Sankaran and several others.

Prasanna has composed original music for documentary films such as the **2009 Oscar nominated 'Smile Pinki'** and feature films such as 'Framed'. His original scores for contemporary dance theater include Shakespeare's 'Tempest' in Sydney, Australia, 'Sanaatana' in London, UK, 'A Story and a Song' in Boston, MA, 'Soliloquy' in Chennai, India and several more, His orchestration and arranging credits include the title score for the Oscar nominated Bollywood film 'Lagaan' with music composed by A.R. Rahman. Prasanna's acclaimed guitar instructional DVD 'Ragamorphism', gives an in-depth look at how he stretches the boundaries of improvisation.

Nitin Mitta is one of the most sought after young tabla players of our generation with rare technical virtuosity and sensitivity. He has performed worldwide with some of India's most celebrated and honored musicians - such as Pt. Jasraj, Dr. Prabha Atre, Pt. Rajan Sajan Mishra, Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Smt. Veena Sahasrabudhe and Pt. Budhaditya Mukherjee just to name a few. Nitin received his early training in Hyderabad from Pandit G. Satyanarayana . In his years as a tabla-student, he won many accolades, including the first prize in the All India Competition held in Calcutta. He was also awarded a National Scholarship by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Central Govt. His passion for rhythm and his desire to enhance his repertoire of tabla-compositions, lead him to seek the guidance of Pandit Arvind Mulgaonkar. Both of Nitin's Gurus are disciples of the late Ustad Amir Hussain Khan Saheb, legendary doyen of the Farukhabad Gharana . Nitin has thus received two perspectives upon a single tradition and he has enriched his inheritance through his own capacity for assimilation and interpretation. On moving to the United States in 2002, Nitin received a grant

from the Rhode Island State Council on Arts . He has been on the Faculty at the Learn Quest Academy of Music in Waltham , MA . Now a resident of New York City, he is actively involved in teaching, performing, recording, and conducting tabla workshops. He has recently performed at venues like The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rubin Museum of Art, The Asia Society, and The Indian Embassy in New York and The Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC. He has also conducted lecture-demonstrations and performed at Brown University, MIT, Harvard, UC Berkeley, U Penn, The University of Chicago and Drury University. Nitin has performed in some of the major festivals and venues in India , the U.S. and in Canada, Germany, France, England, Ireland, Finland, Sri Lanka and the Baltic countries - Lithuania , Belarus, and Vilnius. He has performed at the Purcell Room, London and the India Culture Centre, Berlin. In India, he has performed at some of the most prestigious music festivals and venues, including The Pt. Motiram and Pt. Maniram Sangeeth Samaroh, Hyderabad, The Pt. Radhika Mohan Moitra Music conference, Kolkatta, Music Academy, Chennai, SPICMACAY, The St. Xavier's' IMG Music Festival, Mumbai, Surya Festival, Trivandrum, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi and the Nehru Centre, Mumbai. His performance in the musical album entitled "Soul Strings" released by Music Today has been widely appreciated.

www.myspace.com/tirthatheband

www.vijay-iyer.com

<http://www.guitarprasanna.com/>

<http://www.primetimeprism.com/interviews/nitinmitta.html>