

The vast winter night sky, so cold and those of summer, so warm. I look up to and I know we are but a minuscule part of infinity. In the meanwhile

all of that infinity is in our eyes. Light reaching us from millions of lightyears away, reflecting itself in the mirror of our gazes. In the hum of Tanpura I find the vastness of cosmos, where I reflect myself in and which reflects in me. This sound, ancient and continuous, is the sacred thread binding the universe.

The drone fills the space, a constante presence, I lean into it, feeling myself both vast and tiny, an imperceptible echo within the infinite. Melody's lifts and spirals drawing on cosmic rhythms, reflected into the music. I reach out, touching these patterns that reflect the vast pulse of being. The melody rises, folds back on itself, traces lines through space, only to melt again and again into the ancient drone. In this union of sounds I sense the divine spark of existence, the essence of everything held within the sky's vast infinity.





Pleiades - Martina Stuflessner



Andromeda - Lovisa Burfitt



Orion - Linda Yasmin Mayer



Cassiopeia - Satabdi Hati

Virginia Nicoli

Virginia's journey into music began in early childhood, inspired by her mother, a violinist. From a young age, Virginia dreamed of playing the silver flute, and at the age of 10, that dream became reality. She began her musical education with private lessons, later attending several music schools, including the Conservatoire in Milan.

As a teenager, Virginia's passion shifted toward improvised music. She became captivated by the freedom of closing her eyes and allowing music to flow naturally, unhindered by a written score. This led her to participate in numerous jam sessions, where she experimented with a wide range of musical styles and genres.

At 18, Virginia encountered a turning point when she met Igino Giovanni Brunori, who introduced her to the Bansuri, the Indian bamboo flute. She was immediately enchanted by its soulful sound and the profound depth of Indian classical music. This connection resonated deeply with her, as Virginia's ties to Indian culture had been strong since childhood, thanks to her father's travels to India, where he often brought the family along. Visiting India always felt like coming home, and discovering its music created an even stronger bond with the country.

Virginia began her formal studies in Indian classical music at the Conservatoire of Vicenza, Arrigo Pedrollo, where she pursued the "Tradizioni Musicali Extraeuropee, Indirizzio Indologico" program. Under the mentorship of esteemed teachers such as Gianni Richizzi and Amelia Cuni, she graduated in 2010 with honors, receiving an award for outstanding graduates.

Eager to immerse herself further, Virginia traveled to India regularly to study Indian classical music at its source studying and lived in India for many years. A transformative moment came when she heard a recording of the Gundecha Brothers and fell in love with Dhrupad, one of the oldest forms of Indian classical music.

She studied extensively at the Dhrupad Sansthan in Bhopal under the guidance of the Gundecha Brothers, exploring both the vocal repertoire and its translation onto the Bansuri. Following her teacher's advice, she also began playing Dhrupad on the silver flute, blending her classical Western training with the traditions of Indian music.

Virginia further honed her Bansuri skills under Pandit Rajendra Prasanna in Delhi, bringing a richness and depth to her artistry.

Over time, she developed a unique vocal style on the Bansuri, blending melodic phrasing with voice-like nuances that evoke the expressive quality of Dhrupad singing.

Since 2010, Virginia has been an active performer worldwide, participating in diverse projects such as Samvad Music, Samvad & Conductus Ensemble, and the Dhrupad Ensemble. She is also a dedicated teacher, sharing her passion for Dhrupad with students from around the globe.

Sukhad Munde

Sukhad was born in the musical family of great Pakhawaj Maestro Pt. Manik Munde.

He started getting Pakhawaj & Tabla training at the age of 6 under Guru-Shishya Parampara (Indian traditional oral transmission of knowledge) from his Father and Guru, well-known worldwide Pakhawaj Maestro.

Sukhad has performed with most of the greatest Dhrupad maestros and with a large numbers of great musicians and kathak dancers. He performed in many prestigious festivals in India and abroad.

Presently he is producing & performing India's first Vedic Symphony "Param Sukhadam" with more than 50 artistes.

He is training to more than 250 disciples in Pune & Mumbai. Many of them are certified with B.A. in Pakhawaj (Pune University).

Subhajit Brahmachari

Disciple of the great Tabla Maestro, Pandit Anindo Chatterjee, Subhajit Brahmachari is in high demand as a soloist and an accompanist of vocal, instrumental, and kathak dance. Renowned for his tonal quality and expertise in intricate rhythmic patterns, Subhajit has performed widely in India and abroad, and he is a regular artist for national Radio and Television. Born in a musical family, Subhajit initially took training in vocal music from his Father, Durgesh Brahmachari, a reputed classical vocalist. He received his first training in Tabla from his elder brother, Sri Debasish Brahmachari, a disciple of Tabla maestros Om Prakash Rao, Ustad Munne Khan and Krishna Kumar Ganguly. He has performed in numerous concerts all over India and abroad.

He was awarded by the prestigious 'National Scholarship for Higher Studies in Tabla' in 2000 by the Government of India and received 15 long years of extensive tutelage under the legendary Tabla Maestro, Pandit Anindo Chatterjee.

Subhajit has established himself as a versatile musician who is also a talented singer and composer. He has recorded numerous CD's with both Indian and western musicians. He has composed music for documentary films and musical shows. He teaches students from all over the world and associated with Melbourne Tabla Tabla (Australia) as Indian counterpart. Besides Indian classical music, he regularly collaborates and experiments with fusion music like jazz, flamenco, Middle Eastern, African and Turkish music.

Debajyoti Sanyal

Subhajit Brahmachari, from India, is a world - class exponent of the Indian classical Tabla (percussion). His training began at age four with his father, great vocal singer Sri Amalendu Sanyal, and continued with renowned masters of the Dhrupad tradition such as Pandit Shankar Gosh. He blends extraordinary virtuosity with a subtle nuance of expression.

Thanks

from the bottom of my heart to everyone that made it possible for this album to become reality.

To Fergus Mckay and Gaia Miato, to record it and look after my kids while I was in the creative process.

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Least but not last to my two daughters, Aleida and Rhea for their presence, which fills my life with so much joy and gratitude, and for their patience with their artist mother, busy in creating this album.

Credits:

Virginia Nicoli: *Bansuri*

Subhajit Brahmachari: *Tabla* (Pleiades)

Sukhad Munde: *Pakhawaj* (Cassiopea, Andromeda)

Debajyoti Sanyal: *Tabla* (Orion)

Fergus Mckay: *recording*

Stefano Castagna - Studio Ritmo&Blu: *mixing and mastering*

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Foto for cover: Damian Galli

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Artwork Andromeda: Lovisa Burfitt

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