

# FESTIVAL PROJECT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEIMËNSTER, LUXEMBOURG



# JALSA

*Echoes of India*



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1st EDITION  
8th JULY 2022, LUXEMBOURG

## CONTACT

Jean-François RAMON

ramonjeanfrancois@gmail.com

06 28 42 42 39

Jeanne MIRAMON &  
Ingrid LE GARGASSON

kalasetu.france@gmail.com

06 58 30 86 19 / 06 23 01 96 38

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## IN CHORUS

Since 2016 :

- 14 creations
- 43 artists : 27 Indian artists, 16 artists from Western, African or Middle-Eastern traditions.
- 15 international partners
- 12 Indian cities

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## KALASETU

KALASETU is an Indo-French organization established in 2013 by two French scholars in Social Anthropology (Ingrid Le Gargasson) and Musicology (Jeanne Miramon) passionate about Indian Performing Arts, and experienced in accompaniment of artistic production and coordination of cultural projects.

KALASETU aims to bring together artists, scholars and a large audience to appreciate and encourage the transmission and the performance of artistic expressions from South Asia, in India and in France.

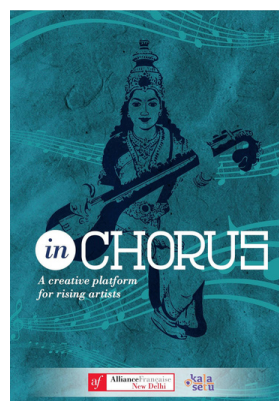
## The Spirit of Jalsa

The diversity and the creativity of India, a multi-faceted cultural sub-continent, reflects on its various forms of artistic expressions. Despite major developments, old traditions are still alive, carried by high level artist who have unfortunately very less opportunity to display their talent on the international stages. Therefore, this festival wishes to shed light on **young Indian artists** and give them a chance to exchange and create with their Western counterparts.

"Jalsa" is a Hindi word which means a festival, a gathering and which is also used in the Indian musical world for intimate concerts.

## Project

- \* Set up a festival that will become the artistic point of reference for music lovers sensitive to **cultural dialogue** in the respect of great traditions.
- \* Celebrate the **diversity of musical traditions**, and highlight the complicity that can emerge from two different oral traditions related by modal system and improvisation.



The Project has its roots in the **musical platform «InChorus»** created in 2016 by Alliances Française de Delhi in collaboration with Kalasetu. This one allows young artists to meet, exchange and work together during residencies and tours in India. Those musicians were the most promising artist of their generation, coming from Indian and Western classical training but also from Middle Eastern and African traditions.

<http://kalasetu.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/assokalasetu/>



## PARTNERSHIP

Kalasetu and its 2 artistic directors have worked with many cultural institutions over the past years as :

Maison des Cultures du Monde (Paris), Théâtre de la Ville (Paris), Centre Mandapa (Paris), Musée Guimet (Paris), l'espace Langevin (Choisy le Roi), Festival Armor India (Morlaix), l'Espace Magnan (Nice), Opéra de Lyon, l'association DROM, les Ateliers d'ethnomusicologie (Genève), le réseau des Alliances françaises en Inde, Delhi University, Spicmacay, World Sacred Spirit Festival (Nagaur et Jodhpur), Festival Al Khamandjati (Palestine), etc.

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## THREE MAJOR CONCERNS FOR JALSA

- ecological engagement : limit the environmental impact of the festival
- equality between genres : as many female artist as male artists
- social engagement : offer an affordable price to the audience

## Luxembourg

The festival Jalsa is glad to have **neimënster as its main cultural partner in Luxembourg**. As a centre for cultural exchange and meetings which organizes activities that are based on the idea of "a dialogue of cultures, culture of dialogue", neimënster appears to be an ideal collaborator and location.

The festival will be associated with the luxembourgish musical scene, by including in its future program the participation of jazz musicians from Luxembourg; these artists will be selected in close collaboration with the director of neimënster and her colleagues.

The **Neumünster Abbey Cultural Exchange Center (neimënster)**, inaugurated in May 2004 after ten years of restoration work, is located in the heart of the old quarters, on an itinerary which is classified Unesco world heritage. Located in a spectacular setting, this group of buildings, which have come through four centuries of turbulent history, is now dedicated to cultural projects and is at the same time a marvelous site for grand events. Within its 12.000 square meters, about 700 such events are organized each year on this site which is open to all.

<https://www.neimenster.lu/en/Culture/neimenster>

## For the coming years

### Residency

The festival could be preceded by several days of residency that will give time to the artists to revive their collaboration.

### Concerts

Concerts could be structured in several parts: the first and second part are dedicated to the display of each artist's talent in his own tradition, while the third part will present the result of their collaboration during the residency.

### Workshops

In the same spirit, several musicians involved in the project are willing to share and teach their skills to young audience through workshops.

# EXAMPLES OF SUPPORTED PROJECTS

BY KALASETU



## « Queens of Melody »

With Éléonore Fourniau, Nandini Shankar, Abhishek Sharma - Creation 2019

## « Strings together »

With Chérif Soumano and Shahnawaz Khan  
Creation 2021



## « Jazz-Express. Paris-Darjeeling-Chennai »

with Raphaëlle Brochet, Philippe Aerts and Pranai Gurung  
Creation 2017

## « Puppet Swing »

With Sabrina Arusam, Dhruv Bedi, Saptak Sharma  
Creation 2016



## « Sangata »

With the group Variances of Thierry Pécou (Anne Cartel, Carjez Gerretsen) and Amaan Ali, Rishab Prasanna and Ragini Shankar – Creation 2018



# CONCERT PROGRAM

## FRIDAY JULY 8 IN NEIMËNSTER



### First part - **Sangeeta Shankar & daughters: Hindustani violin** - 45 minutes

From an early age, **Sangeeta Shankar** and her two daughters, **Ragini and Nandini**, were introduced to the subtleties of Hindustani music by their mother and grandmother, the famous violinist Dr. N. Rajam. Like the latter, their playing style mimics the inflection of the singing voice, with a bow technique that achieves the intonation nuances characteristic of Hindustani vocal forms, especially Khayal.

Full-fledged solo artists, the three violinists are involved in various musical projects. They find themselves on stage to the delight of music lovers, alternating virtuosity and lyrical passages in a listening and mutual appreciation where the complicity and the pleasure of playing together spring from spontaneously improvised question-answers within the melodic and rhythmic frameworks of the raga and tala. **This family trio of two generations of female instrumentalists is unique in the world of Hindustani music.**

With Sangeeta, Ragini and Nandini Shankar (violin) and Amaan Ali (tabla)

#### **Videos :**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuOB2cPcmp4&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x97EgU73hhl>

#### **Dedicated radio program**

<https://www.radiofrance.fr/francemusique/podcasts/ocora-couleurs-du-monde/sangeeta-shankar-and-daughters-le-violon-hindoustani-a-son-apogee-2275497>

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## Second part - From Kurdish songs to Hindustani ragas

- 30 minutes

### « Queens of Melody »

With Eléonore Fourniau (vocal, saz and hurdy-gurdy),  
Nandini Shankar (violin) and Amaan Ali (tabla)

**First date in Europe !**



French artist **Éléonore Fourniau** sings the joys and sorrows of the Kurdish people with rare sensitivity, accompanying herself on saz and hurdy-gurdy. Indian violinist **Nandini Shankar** performs the ragas of Hindustani music with subtlety and virtuosity. In this recent creation [inChorus], Eléonore Fourniau and Nandini Shankar take us on a musical journey that combines the sung heritage of the vast lands of Kurdistan with the Hindustani ragas of the plains and cities of North India.

"**Queens of melody**" is an invitation to immerse yourself in the captivating and timeless melodies of these Asian territories. The strings of the two musicians respond and intersect, with grace, in obvious complicity, on the rhythmic flow of the talented **Amaan Ali** whose brilliant style is revealed with each tabla solo.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1T6-80Bu3hM&ab\\_channel=NandiniShankar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1T6-80Bu3hM&ab_channel=NandiniShankar)

## JALSA

### *Echoes of India*

The **cultural diversity** and the **creativity of India**, a multi-faceted cultural sub-continent, reflect on its various forms of artistic expression. The festival **JALSA** proposes to discover some of its greater traditions in shedding light on **Indian artists from the new generation**. It aims also to present projects arising from the **collaboration** of these talented artists with musicians based in Europe. The word « JALSA » refers to meetings and the joy of reunion: it is here the creativity resulting from the **dialogues between several artistic worlds and sensibilities** that will be celebrated. Sometimes introspective and poetic, sometimes bright and virtuoso, these musical encounters are an invitation to travel and live new aesthetic experiences.