



Season Two of Under the Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night wraps up with a toast to the creativity of Fusion

- *The November edition of Under a Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night celebrated Fusion Music on Sunday, the 25th of November, at 1AQ, opposite the Qutub Minar in Mehrauli.*
- *Under the Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night is a special concert series showcasing rich Indian and international music in a baithak themed ambience.*
- *The Anirudh Varma Collective - an ensemble of expert musicians with a penchant for fusion experimentation, and Sharat and Friends - an exploration of the sounds of India and the West, set the stage on fire at the season two finale.*

New Delhi, 26th November 2018. [Teamwork Arts](#), a pioneering entertainment company, renowned for curating innovative and experiential events presented the season two finale of Under the Banyan Tree on A Full Moon Night. The series showcased music that is contemporary and evolving with global musical influences, yet Indian at its core.

The November edition of Under a Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night toasted the intrinsic creativity of fusion. Fusion denotes the melding together of two specific musical cultures; that of the east and the west. Since the '50s, Indian and Western musicians have been collaborating and jamming, mixing and matching, and trying to mimic ragas on violins, and pentatonic minors on *sarods*. This intermingling of two diverse and rich musical schools has created unique sonic adventures and some of the greatest and most experimental music of our times.

Mrigya violinist, Sharat Chandra Srivastava's eclectic fusion outfit *Sharat and Friends*, and Indian classical fusion ensemble - *The Anirudh Varma Collective* headlined the season finale.

The first group - **The Anirudh Varma Collective** - is an independent ensemble which aims at promoting Indian Classical music amongst contemporary audiences. The collective was born out of Anirudh's desire to bring together a community of diverse musicians and give them a space to explore soundscapes. 10 members of the ensemble braced the stage at the full moon concert. Commenting on his experience, Anirudh Varma said, *'The first thing that struck us was*

the visual aspect of the space. When playing as an ensemble, the vibe of the venue makes all the difference. Another thing that we all noticed was that the audience was very quiet throughout, there was pin drop silence even between sets; it felt like they were there solely for the music. It felt special to be called for the finale of this season, and to perform at a setting where the spectator is made to feel as comfortable as the performer, which I feel is very important.'

The second act, **Sharat and Friends**, is led by Sharat Chandra Srivastava, who started learning to play the violin at 7, from his grandfather, the renowned north Indian violinist Pt. Joi Srivastava. He is part of India's premier rock band *Parikrama* and founded the Delhi-based fusion band *Mrigya*. For this performance, Sharat was joined by Igor Bezget, Tadej Kampl, Chintan Kalra, Joshua Grant, Sid Mathur, Karan Sharma, Ishaan Chhabra and Madhabika Nayak; a stellar line-up of expert musicians who set the stage alight. Speaking about the performance, Sharat Chandra Srivastava commented, *'For this concert, we decided to pick songs that represent the best of us; an amalgamation of our concerts all over the world and we featured songs that we have performed in the last 10 years along with those from our upcoming album.'* Adding to this he commented on the initiative saying, *'We need more such baithak style evenings; it creates an intimate relationship between the artiste and the audience.'*

The 2018 season finale of the full moon concert series celebrated the best of music, gastronomy, art, culture and relationships. This edition saw a special culinary experience curated by Caara, a farm-to-fork initiative from New Delhi, which was started in 2014. The fantastic food was paired with elegant libation options - the delicious Campo Viejo wines which are made in the Rioja region of Spain, the exquisite Teacher's Golden Thistle for whisky lovers and White Rhino beer for people looking for something refreshing.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Teamwork Arts: For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India. In countries such as Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Israel, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA, Teamwork produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts, and literary festivals across more than 40 cities. Teamwork Arts produces one of the world's largest free literary gatherings, the annual [ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival](#), the [Ishara International Puppet Festival](#) and the

annual [Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards \(META\) and Festival](#) in New Delhi, international festivals [Shared History](#) in South Africa, [Eye on India](#) in the United States of America, [India by the Bay](#) in Hong Kong, [Confluence- Festival of India](#) in Australia, [India@70 2017: Year of Culture in the United Kingdom](#), and many more.

Website: www.teamworkarts.com

About the Friends of Music: Delhi's iconic music club, FOM (Friends of Music) set up in 1994, has continued to create a thriving language of live music. Carrying forward the feel-good tradition of celebrating and enjoying music with friends and family in an intimate setting, FOM will share the light, love, and joy that it brought to you years ago, with renewed vigour and excitement. FOM, a Teamwork Arts initiative, brings together musicians and discerning audiences in a community to explore, create and enjoy new sounds.

Website: <http://friendsofmusic.in/>

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