



The October Edition of Under the Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night toasts the timeless beauty of the *Ghazal*

- On Sunday, the 21st of October, at 1AQ, opposite the Qutab Minar in Mehrauli, veteran singer Venkatraman will start the evening with a tribute to the Ghazal tradition, followed by readings from Ghalib's poems by Murad Ali. The evening's performances will conclude with a performance by Vidya Shah, who will celebrate the divas of Ghazal.

- The September edition of Teamwork Arts' Full Moon series focused on the intermingling of music and dance as an age-old Indian tradition. The evening had started with a percussive set by the Gangani family, followed by a Thumri recital by Indira Naik and a concluding performance by the Kutle Khan Project.

New Delhi, 11th October 2018: Season two of the concert series **Under the Banyan Tree on A Full Moon Night**, produced by [Teamwork Arts](#): a pioneering entertainment company, renowned for curating innovative and experiential events, kicked off in August 2018. The series, which runs from August to November, brings to the forefront music that is contemporary, evolving and connected, with global musical influences, yet Indian at its core.

The *Ghazal* is a poetic tradition which found its roots in 7th-century Arabia, but has since evolved over time, across empires and languages, to embody the form of a complex amatory ode. From Goethe to Ghalib, Rafi to Abida Parveen, and Rumi to Asha Bhosle, the *Ghazal* has been a platform to express themes like erotic love, Sufi love and metaphysics. Filled with images of hopeless, idealistic lovers desperate for each other even unto death, the *Ghazal* is a timeless expression of intimacy, spirituality, pain and longing.

The evening's performances would start with **Venkatraman**, an Indian classical vocal master mentored by the legendary Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, who will be performing *Ghazals* from yesteryears. Inspired to try the form after hearing the late maestro Jagjit Singh, Venkatraman mastered the style and the impeccable Urdu diction it requires. He has performed extensively across the country, recorded numerous *Ghazal* and *Bhajan* albums, and sung on several film scores.

Next, **Murad Ali**, a poet, actor and filmmaker, with a particular affinity for the poetry of Rumi, Ghalib, Zauq, Daag and the like, will be reading from select Ghalib poems, in a specially curated set titled, '*Abeedon ke lateefey*'. Ali has acted in several films, television programmes and theatre productions, but cherishes celebrating his love of poetry. With a particular passion for the poets who received patronage during the Mughal era in India, he seeks to spread the much-needed message of peace, love and universal brotherhood popularised by the *Ghazal* form.

The final artiste for the evening, renowned classical singer, **Vidya Shah** is a musician and writer who has trained in Carnatic, *Khayal* (under Shubha Mudgal), *Thumri*, *Dadra* and *Ghazal*. Recently, she sang the iconic *nazm* by Faiz – *Bol, ke lab azaad hai tere*, in the critically acclaimed movie – *Manto*. For this performance, Shah brings back the contemplative nostalgia of the *Ghazal* with renditions of familiar pieces from celebrated female *Ghazal* singers like Farida Khanum, Begum Akhtar and Runa Laila. Her set, '*Abhi Toh Main Jawaan Hoon* - a tribute to the divas of *Ghazal*' is Shah's exploration of the art-form and its greatest female proponents.

For this edition of the series, a culinary experience will be specially curated by Paprika Kitchen in synthesis with the musical theme. The brainchild of Praveen Gandhi, Paprika Kitchen is a unique F&B initiative that brings together thematic menus in collaboration with renowned master chefs.

Under the Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night is set in the beautifully lush and serene 1AQ; an inspiring venue, conceptualised by Anubhav Nath, which offers stunning views of the Qutab Minar. Add to that, the company of a select community, succulent *kebabs* and other culinary treats on offer, and the silver full moon in autumn and you're sure to have all the elements necessary for an unforgettable musical soiree.

EVENT DETAILS

When: October 21, 2018, 7 PM onwards

Where: 1AQ, Opposite Qutub Minar, Mehrauli

Entry: Tickets starting at INR 1000 (+ 28% GST), available at -

<https://www.twagateway.com/friendsofmusic/underthebanyantree/>

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

SEASON 2 CALENDAR

August 25, 2018

September 22, 2018

October 21, 2018

November 24, 2018

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, as well as 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 others.

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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