Gitân

Stacey Blythe | Rajesh David

The music of Gitân is a walk with two friends between two worlds, each holding the musical thread of their native or adopted homelands and bringing them together to create a beautiful sonic story tapestry. The two friends are singers, musicians and composers Rajesh David and Stacey Blythe. Rajesh was born in Mumbai. He came to Wales, learned the language and has made his home in Lampeter, West Wales. Stacey was born in Birmingham and came to study music in Cardiff. She learned Welsh and raised her family speaking Welsh. She has made Cardiff her home.

Gitân make new material with poetic threads of Hindi, Welsh, Urdu and Sanskrit…with sung threads of classical Indian vocal styles and folk songs from Wales… and with instruments that do not normally dance together - Indian harmonium and Celtic lever harp. Epic classical poetry in Hindi Urdu and Sanskrit sits next to, and falls into, personal, tender, domestic folk songs from Wales. The colours blur, the differences melt away, and we begin to sing and share the songs and music from these diverse cultures with one sonic voice.

About the artists

Composer, performer, and multi-instrumentalist, **Stacey Blythe** has performed all over the UK, America, Brazil, Australia, Germany, Italy, France and Holland. She performs with Ffynnon and Elfen. She has toured and recorded as a composer and performer with many different artists (Maria Hayes), poets (including Patrick Jones), musicians (Dylan Fowler, Julie Murphy, Meredith Monk) and storytellers including Nick Hennessey.

She plays with some exciting new singer songwriters; Rachel Taylor-Beales and Pamela Wyn-Shannon. She has performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, on the Orient Express, played for Stephen Sondheim, shared the stage with Billy Bragg (who sang a song Stacey wrote!) and Michelle Shocked.

Stacey has composed music and performed with Adverse Camber - "Hunting the Giant's Daughter" was her first piece of touring work with them and is an award-winning piece of Storytelling-Theatre. They have toured extensively in the UK and Europe performing in both Welsh and English. They've also toured Australia for a month with "Dreaming the Night Field" multiple performances including a residency at the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Stacey was one of only 8 musicians chosen to tour Wales with Cylch Canu 2 – Song Chain 2. She's an associate musician with English National Ballet, and an MD at RWCMD Drama Department. She has worked with Live Music Now as a mentor and composer, and runs instrumental workshops in traditional music, singing and songwriting. Stacey has been nominated for the Paul Hamlyn Composers Award.

Stacey has worked with WNO (Community Outreach), WNO orchestra, National Dance Theatre Wales, The Rubicon, Theatre Ffynnon, National Orchestra of Wales, Swansea Arts Festival, The Chainmakers Festival, North Wales Arts Festival, National Theatre of Wales, Live Music Now Wales, Swansea Arts Festival, Theatr Iolo, Nofit State Circus, Operasonic, The Touch Trust and Ty Cerdd. She is a regular composer for the Welsh National Opera's Max department

She has performed (with her students from the Royal Welsh College) for Elizabeth Taylor, Shirley Bassey and the then Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace. She lectures as a musical director and repertoire coach at the Royal Welsh Conservetoire of Music and Drama.

Rajesh is an accomplished and versatile singer and composer, trained in Indian classical music. Born in India into a family of singers, he was an A-grade artist for the All India Radio and Television. His compositions, influenced by Indian classical and folk traditions as well as contemporary music are inspiring, energetic and heart opening.

As a singer **Rajesh David** bridges the music and culture of the Celtic world and India: singing in Hindi, Sanskrit, English and even Welsh (he is a Welsh language learner), as well as the musical language of sargams, taranas and bols. He enjoys working with musicians of different genres, bringing music and cultures together.

Collaborative projects include –

- With Dylan Fowler and Pete Stacey in [TŷHai](https://tyhai.com/).
- CD album [Mangalam | Rajesh David and Pete Stacey | Rajesh David (bandcamp.com)] with Pete Stacey.
- With Zambra Flamenco at the Diss Corn Hall and at the Drum Camp Festival in Norwich.
- With electronic ambient composers Paul Sharma, and Oliver and Peter Spencer, performing as The Minimal 4tet at the Brighton Fringe Festival.
- Worked on 2 CD albums with Paul Sharma:
  Safar https://www.monocromatica.com/netlabel/releases/tube209.htm
  Not This, Not That https://paulsharma.bandcamp.com/album/not-this-not-that
- Radio plays of the traditional Welsh folk songs, Lisa Lan played on Radio Cymru. Cover version (Bombay Mix) of Lorraine Bowen's "Crumble Song", played on BBC Radio 1 and Radio 6. Voice of Bobbi Sing-Song in [Moshi Monsters – the Movie](Moshi Monsters: The Movie Clip - Jollywood (youtube.com)), singing "Welcome to Jollywood".
- With Indo-Jazz group Jadu, performing at Sharq Taronalari International Music Festival in Samarkand.

His passion for music and his study of Yoga has inspired him to develop seminars on Nada Yoga and Bhakti Yoga which he gives in UK and abroad. He has produced several CD albums of his compositions as well a yoga practice CDs. His latest CD album is inspired by the poems of the Sufi poet Amir Khusro.

Stacey first met Rajesh properly at a gig of hers at the Pwerdy Art centre In Llandysul. "He sat in the front row", recalls Stacey "and at the end asked me if I'd like to do a project together and I was stunned…Me? With you? But you're really good! He laughed and said the same back to me. I was amazed and delighted."

"We began our conversation between Welsh folk song and epic Indian poetry and it has brought us here…a beautiful new album and some amazing opportunities."

Video Links
Watch Gitân perform "Y Gwydd - Basanti rang de" https://youtu.be/9ncmKiC9D7k

For further information visit www.gitan.co.uk
For booking please contact booking@gitan.co.uk
For general queries contact info@gitan.co.uk

Gitân

Stacey Blythe | Rajesh David

TECH-RIDER FOR LIVE PERFORMANCE

2 Vocal microphones (with stands)
1 D.I. Harp (and/or instrument microphone)
1 D.I. Tampura (and/or instrument microphone)
1 Instrument microphone for Harmonium
Set up time and sound check before performance

Direct all questions and queries to Stacey Blythe/Rajesh David at info@gitan.co.uk