
Folk & Carnatic tunes blend in Nordic Raga

● V Sidharthan

How often do you listen to Scandinavian folk music blended with South Indian carnatic music? The crowd at the Yellow Train school was in for a treat as they were enthralled with some amazing music by the Nordic Raga band. The concert was organised by Workcenter, a Bengaluru based studio along with Yellow Train school.

The famous Nordic Raga trio consisting of Jyotsna Srikanth, a Bengaluru based violinist settled in London and two Swedish musicians, Dan Svensson and Par Moberg. Dan is a percussionist cum vocalist and Par plays wind instruments. The group also featured a Swedish violinist Lena Johnson.

City Express caught up with Jyotsna and Par before the concert. How did this union (Nordic Raga) happen, and Jyotsna replied, “Actually my husband met Par in Copenhagen and he briefed him about me and how I was looking out for new collaborations. I always wanted to collaborate with folk musicians. Fusion music usually is only with jazz musicians because folk musicians don’t improvise. Indian music is all about improvising, what you call as Mano Dharma Sangeetham in India is not there in any other music except jazz, so we thought of giving it a try.”

“Folk sounds totally different and I wanted to try it. I listened to a lot of Irish folk after living in Europe for a long time, and realised that each one has a different flavour. Nordic folk is Scandinavian folk which is Denmark, Sweden and Norway. They have a distinct folk music, when we met we de-

cided to do this and gave it a structure first," she said about her love for the folk music.

"This collaboration with the school is to create awareness among students and parents about world music. World music is a very broad term which is not properly projected in India. I have introduced a lot of young carnatic musicians from South India to Europe through London International Arts Festival." The two-year old band performed at an orphanage in Bengaluru. "In India its mostly electronic music, people want to sequence, they want to use the keyboard which is called as harmonica but electronic is electronic you don't get the original sound, it is like comparing home food with hotel food," she laughs.

Par spoke about promoting traditional music, "It is really important to make younger generation interested in traditional music and that is something we are struggling with all the time in Sweden. This music is very rarely heard in main stream media so its hard for young people to discover this kind of music. But they usually like this sound because it is groovy and makes you dance. It is very important to pass it on to the younger generation."

"We have had so much positive response from the Indian crowd so we are really thrilled about that. I was scared because I didn't know how the classical Indian muscians would react but the audiences have been extremely supportive, so it has been a fantastic experience," she smiled.



Members of Nordic Raga Band pose with their instruments

Media coverage of the Nordic Raga tour in India, aug 2016

Publication : THE HINDU
Date : 11/8/16
Edition : SAIGAR
Page : 1
Headline :



Fused melodies

Nordic Raga, a fusion band of Indian Carnatic and Scandinavian folk music, will perform at Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield on August 12 and 13 from 9.30 p.m. onwards. Call 8880233322 for more details

Publication : THE NEW / 491A2 EXPRESS
Date : 11/8/16
Edition : SANGALONE
Page : 2
Headline :

**WHAT
WHEN
WHY
WHERE**



Nordic Tunes

Watch Nordic Raga, a group, that experiments with improvisation in Nordic folk music and performs. To find inspiration, they use models of improvisation from classical Indian music, but use Nordic rhythms.

Where: Windmills Craftworks
When: August 12-13

Publication : *The New Indian Express*
 Date : *12/8/16*
 Edition : *K. for the 1st*
 Page : *5*
 Headline :

musicama/theatre
 culture



TWO musicians from Sweden, Par Moberg and Dan Svensson wanted to experiment with the traditional folk music from Scandinavia. Reaching far, they invited Indian Carnatic violinist, Jyotsna Srikanth. The trio, who sometimes play with the Swedish fiddle player, Mats Eden are Nordic Raga. Nordic Raga, as the name suggests is the coming together of two very different musical genres from across the globe, Nordic folk and Carnatic. For the first time, the band is playing in front of an Indian audience at Windmills Craftworks in Bengaluru. We caught up with Moberg (flute and saxophone), who told us about his music, and the diversity of the genres.

How did the two genres come together?
 When Dan Svensson (percussion and vocals) and I decided that we wanted to work with a project where we used Nordic scales and rhythms as the basis for improvised music, we realised that it would be a good plan to team up with an Indian musician, since we knew that improvisation is a vital part of your tradition.

What are the challenges in bringing them together?
 I would say that the main challenge has been the differences in approach. Indian classical music is very systemised and has a rigid music theory, whereas Nordic folk is mainly dance music, and was not taught based on a music theory or notation.

Tell us a bit more about Nordic folk music.
 Nordic is a common denominator for Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish and Icelandic. Though all of these countries have their dis-

tinct styles and varieties, they have a lot in common. One is that it's traditionally mainly solo music, performed by one player, and very rarely with percussion. The violin is a very dominating instrument.

Songs in beats of three are very common and popular. Called Polska or Pols, this dance and melody type genre was originally imported to the Swedish court from Poland in the 16th century.

As a popular music form, it was 'killed' more or less by Western pop music during the 20th century, but as a specialist 'nerd' music tradition, it has lived on all the time, and has a small but very devoted clan of followers both in Sweden and abroad, stretching from Seattle to Tokyo.

What are your influences?
 I don't really know of any other band that is doing what we do with Nordic folk music, so it's hard to say. But you could say that we are influenced by all bands that try to create a true (and not only superficial) meeting and understanding between different musical traditions and musicians.

This is your first gig in Bengaluru. What are you expecting?
 So far we've only performed to Western audiences, often with a lot of knowledge about Nordic folk, but with little or no knowledge of Indian music. It will be very fascinating to see how the crowd reacts when it is the other way around.

₹500. Today and tomorrow, 8.30pm. At Whitefield. Details: 8880233322
 — Anagha M

Mixed TAPE

Scandinavian folk and Carnatic music come together at Nordic Raga's Bengaluru gig

on stage



Publication : *MINIT*
Date : *12/21/16*
Edition : *B Ad of 100 K2*
Page : *13*
Headline :



Fusion: *Nordic Raga blend Nordic folk and Carnatic music.*

BENGALURU

Music

Nordic Raga
Fall of August

Indo-Scandinavian fusion band Nordic Raga—comprising Pär Moberg on saxophone, flutes and didgeridoo, Dan Svensson on percussion and vocals, Jyothsna Srikanth on violin and vocals, and Lena Jonsson on the fiddle—will perform this weekend. They blend Nordic folk and Carnatic music.

9.30pm. Windmills Craftworks, 331, 5B Road, EPIP Zone, Whitefield. Tickets, ₹500 and ₹1,000, available on in.bookmyshow.com. For details, call 8880233322.

Publication : THE ECONOMIC TIMES
Date : 10/8/2016
Edition : BANGALORE
Page : 2
Headline :

THE ECONOMIC TIMES | BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY | 10 AUGUST 2016



FOTO MICHEL THOMAS

Visit This | Music

Nordic Raga combines Nordic and Carnatic music. The ensemble includes Par Moberg (saxophone, flutes, didgeridoo), Dan Svensson (percussion and vocals), Jyothsna Srikanth (violin) and Lena Jonsson (fiddle). Event is at Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield, on August 12, at 9.30 pm. Tickets are priced at ₹500 and ₹1000.

Publication : Deccan Herald
Date : 12/8/16
Edition : RAGI AOKI
Page : 2
Headline :



DYNAMIC Par Moberg, Lena Jonsson, Jyothsna Srikanth and Dan Svensson.

Mixed delight

▶ Windmills Craftworks will present a live performance by 'Nordic Raga' on August 12 and 13, 9.30 pm. 'Nordic Raga' is a fusion band of Indian and Scandinavian music. The band experiments

with bringing more improvisation in Nordic folk music. The improvisation is based on scales and rhythms from Nordic folk music but uses the tools of South Indian Carnatic music.

Publication : DECCAN HERALD
Date : 11/8/2016
Edition : SANGARE
Page : 2
Headline :

Nordic feast



TALENTED Par Moberg, Lena Jonsson, Jyothsna Srikanth and Dan Svensson.

➤ Windmills Craftworks will present a live performance by 'Nordic Raga' on August 12 and 13, 9.30 pm in its premises in Whitefield. 'Nordic Raga' is a fusion band of Indian and Scandinavian

music. The band experiments with bringing more improvisation in Nordic folk music. The improvisation is based on scales and rhythms from Nordic folk music but uses the tools of South Indian Carnatic music.

Publication : DECCAN P-TRONICLE
Date : 11/8/2016
Edition : BANGALORE
Page : 2
Headline :

Music: Nordic Raga

Nordic Raga is a musical project that combines two very ancient musical traditions - Nordic music and



Carnatic music. The basis of this ensemble is to experiment with improvised Nordic music.

However, there is very little room for improvisation in the stringent setup of Nordic musical tradition. So, they use the tools of Indian classical music to experiment with Nordic scales and beats. The ensemble that comprises of Par Moberg (saxophone, flutes, didgeridoo), Dan

Svensson (percussion and vocals), Jyothisna Srikanth (violin) and Lena Jonsson (fiddle) also gives concerts of traditional Nordic as well as Carnatic music. They are due to perform at Windmills Craftworks this month.

When: Aug. 12-13,
09:30pm - 11:30pm

Where: Windmills Craftworks,
331, 5B Road, EPIP Area, Near
KTPO, Whitefield

Publication : DECCAN CHRONICLE
Date : 12/8/16
Edition : BANGALORE
Page : 4
Headline :

Music: Nordic Raga

Nordic Raga is a musical project that combines two very ancient musical traditions - Nordic music and



Carnatic music. The basis of this ensemble is to experiment with improvised Nordic music.

However, there is very little room for improvisation in the stringent setup of Nordic musical tradition. So, they use the tools of Indian classical music to experiment with Nordic scales and beats. The ensemble that comprises of Par Moberg (saxophone, flutes, didgeridoo), Dan Svensson (percussion and vocals), Jyothisna Srikanth (violin) and Lena Jonsson (fiddle) also gives concerts of traditional Nordic as well as Carnatic music. They are due to perform at Windmills Craftworks this month.

When: Aug. 12-13,

09:30pm - 11:30pm

Where: Windmills Craftworks,
331, 5B Road, EPIP Area, Near
KTPO, Whitefield

Publication : **BALGAONE MIRROR**
Date : **10/8/16**
Edition : **BALGAONE**
Page : **4**
Headline :



CONCERT

Nordic raga

THE group Nordic Raga experiments with bringing more innovation in Nordic folk music, which traditionally doesn't use much improvisation. To find inspiration for this they use models for how improvisation is used in classical Indian music but use Nordic scales and rhythms.

WHERE: Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield
WHEN: 9.30pm, August 12 and 13
CALL: 8880233322

Nordic feast



TALENTED Par Moberg, Lena Jonsson, Jyothsna Srikanth and Dan Svensson.

➤ Windmills Craftworks will present a live performance by 'Nordic Raga' on August 12 and 13, 9.30 pm in its premises in Whitefield. 'Nordic Raga' is a fusion band of Indian and Scandinavian

music. The band experiments with bringing more improvisation in Nordic folk music. The improvisation is based on scales and rhythms from Nordic folk music but uses the tools of South Indian Carnatic music.