

GEORG GRATZER & AMRIDAN

World Music



Georg Gratzner
Thomas Mauerhofer
Raul Sengupta
Hina Sarojini

Woodwinds, Vocals
Guitars
Percussion, Tabla
Dance

The *Amridan* quartet (named after the divine elixir Amrita; sanskr.) established in 2002 by Georg Gratzner leads its audience on a musical journey round the world through the four continents Asia, Australia, South America and Europe.

The original musical styles from different countries (India, China, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Serbia, Croatia, Australia and Austria) are not only represented by their instruments such as the woodwind instruments Dizi & HuLuSi from China, the Indian Bansuri or the Peruvian Zampoña but also by their special playing and composition techniques which Georg Gratzner studied in depth on his countless journeys through these countries.

A totally original form of world music emerges through a combination of jazz elements and classical Indian and European music. They play traditional pieces as well as their own compositions.

Georg Gratzner is accompanied musically by the Indian tabla player and multi percussionist Raul Sengupta and the 8 string guitarist Thomas Mauerhofer.

Sengupta studied classical drums and percussion instruments at the Hannover Conservatory and initially worked with musicians like Luis Conte and Ismael Sané. Subsequently he dedicated himself intensively to his Indian roots by studying the Indian tabla under the master Shankar Gosh for years. He is just as at home with traditional Indian and African music as he is with contemporary European music. Numerous tours with Ashraf Sharif Khan, Mahmood Sabri, Prem Joshua, Nassir Shamma, George Bishop and Piirpauke amongst others took him through India, Egypt, Thailand, Malaysia and the USA.

Thomas Mauerhofer studied jazz guitar in Graz and at the Royal Conservatory in Rotterdam. He also attended workshops with Scott Henderson, David Gilmore, Kenny Werner and Bill Frisell and immersed himself in Indian music with Kushal Das. Currently, apart from working with Georg Gratzner, he is also working together with musicians like Klaus Wienerroither, Sandy Lopicic or Nenad Vasilic. He is also involved in theatre (including at the Graz theatre and opera) and he is a producer and sound designer for Oliver Stegner, Monika Reyes, Trio Infernal, Beefólk and Irina Karamarkovic.

Hina Sarojini, the dancer from Singapore, adds the visual component with her improvised movements comprising Thai, Indian and Balinese elements. Sarojini studied classical Indian dance as well as styles from China and South East Asia. She appeared on Asian TV when she was just six. Later on she was a member of the well-known dance ensemble "Temple of Fine Arts" (Malaysia, Singapore). In addition she has choreographed countless dance performances in Asia, Europe and the USA.