



AVATAAR



NOVEMBER 2, 2019 8PM
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WATERLOO, ON

PROGRAM

Pieces in tonight's concert will be announced from the stage.
All pieces composed by Sundar Viswanathan.

Compositions to be selected from:

Monsoon
Banda Aceh
Agra
Worldview
Song Song
Ishwar
Petal (the space between)
Annapoorna
The Long Dream
Chrysalis (emergence)
Petal (ephemerata)
Raudra
Infinite Open

Avataar would like to thank OAC and Canada Council for a tour grant (Western Canada tour 2019) and a grant to record a new album in 2020 (respectively).



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BIOGRAPHY

Multiple Juno nominated and award-winning saxophonist/ flutist/ vocalist and composer **Sundar Viswanathan** has shared the world stage with national/international artists alike. He has performed extensively in Europe (including

BIOGRAPHY

stints with the Grammy-nominated Charles Tolliver Big Band at several Jazz Festivals), Japan, Brazil, South Africa, Canada, the Caribbean, and the USA. Musical associations from Jazz and World music arenas include Wynton Marsalis, Vijay Iyer, Kenny Wheeler, *Jaffa Road*, Lee Konitz, Dave Holland, Kiran Ahluwalia, Rez Abbasi, John Abercrombie, Suba Sankaran, Terry Clarke, Joe Lovano, John Hicks, Cecil McBee, Billy Hart, Jim McNeeley, Hip Hop artist GURU, and Dave Douglas. He has been commissioned to compose/perform with several Dance companies in Canada/ USA. Sundar has been reviewed/profiled in Downbeat, JAZZIZ, the New York Times, Worldmusiccentral.org, Toronto Star, Ottawa Citizen, EYE magazine and several other Canadian and international publications. Sundar's music has been featured on CBC radio, JAZZ FM, WBAI, Radio Bombay and college radio nationally and internationally.

Felicity Williams is a Toronto-based musician who sings. Since graduating from York's music program in 2006, she has been performing widely in Toronto's music community. She has toured in Canada, USA, and Europe with projects including Hobson's Choice, Bernice, Alex Goodman Chamber Quartet, and Bahamas. Her compositions and/or performances have been played on CBC radio and NPR; she has performed live on Q with Snowblink (Daniela Gesundheit and Dan Goldman), Bahamas, and Royal Wood; she has performed live on WNYC's *Spinning on Air* (host David Garland) with Alex Lukashevsky and Bernice.

An eight-time JUNO Award nominee, guitarist/composer **Michael Occhipinti**'s inventive approach to creative music of all kinds has earned him a broad array of listeners and the respect of critics and musicians alike. Crossing genres that include jazz, chamber music, funk, world music, and anything involving modern guitar sounds, Michael is both a versatile musician and an imaginative bandleader. His *Sicilian Jazz Project* has been called "a masterpiece of cross-cultural fusion" and has thrilled audiences in Canada, the U.S., Italy, and Mexico - the project earned Michael a JUNO nomination, and a Chalmers Award that allowed him to live in Sicily from March - June 2010.

BIOGRAPHY

Justin Gray is an Acoustic and Electric Bass Player, Composer and Band Leader. His main influences include Jazz, R&B, Indian Classical and Contemporary Music. Justin has played with and worked with a number of internationally renowned artists including; Dave Liebman, Dave Douglas, Kurt Elling, Mike Stern, Ingrid Jensen, Seamus Blake, Dan Weiss, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Greg Osby, Subankar Banerjee, Bikram Ghosh, Henry Hey, John Riley, and Quinsin Nachoff, Justin also performs regularly with his own group *Gray Matter*; a contemporary Jazz ensemble that is heavily influenced by modern groove music, and *Monsoon*, a contemporary Indo-Jazz ensemble.

Ravi Naimpally studied the art of tabla playing in India. Having completed extensive training with his uncle Nikhil Ghosh and also Anindo Chatterjee, Ravi has been an active member of the Toronto world music scene for nearly 20 years. As a vital part of Toronto's large South Asian community, Ravi continues to perform traditional music from India. Ravi has had several Juno nominations and is featured on Kiran Alhuwalia's Juno winning CD *Beyond Boundaries*. For the last 11 years Ravi has led his own Indo-jazz ensemble Tasa, which was awarded an Urban Music Award for Best World Music album.

Juno winning drummer/percussionist **Max Senitt** is a highly regarded and in-demand freelance musician on the Toronto and international scene. He brings a wealth of experience and versatility gained from performing across Canada, USA, the Caribbean, South America, and Europe with such Grammy and Juno award winning artists as: Alex Cuba, Hilario Duran, Odessa/Havana, Josh Groban, Odessa Havan, the Flying Bulgars, and Carol Welsman. Presently a member of Tzadik Recording artists "Zebrina" and Urugayuan singer Valeria Matzner's bands, he also leads his own Trio.

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A real community hub. THE SOCIALAFTERDARK is a meeting place for creative minds and people looking to expand their typical club going to include a more artsy experience and to enter into a world of escapism.

W E P R O M I S E

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THE CITY OF
Waterloo




KITCHENER

Upcoming NUMUS event:
Friday November 29, 2019
Shopify Barrel Hall



AVA MENDOZA

Brooklyn-based guitarist, singer, songwriter and composer Ava Mendoza has received acclaim for her technique and viscerality. Her most ongoing work is as leader of the experimental rock band Unnatural Ways, and as a solo performer on guitar/voice. She was featured as one of Guitar World's "10 Female Guitarists You Should Know"