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PuneMirror

Pure fusion

By [Ashwin Khan](#), Pune Mirror | Jan 17, 2020, 06.00 AM IST



(L-R) Antoine Morineau, Antoine Marhem, Rupam Ghosh and Eric Navet

Attend a concert that features musicians from France and an Indian classical violinist

The quartet Violons Nomades was born after an unplanned jam session between violinists Antoine Marhem and Rupam Ghosh in France. Their alliance has been rewarding so far, and has grown to incorporate some of the most prolific musicians from France. The group is currently on an India tour, with a performance scheduled in the city this weekend. “I believe that you can make music only if you really like your band members,” says Ghosh, who considers himself fortunate to have found a friend in Marhem.

A disciple of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Ghosh met Marhem in 2016. That chance meeting, somewhere in France, was when they discovered their liking for playing improvised music. “We are both very open-minded, and we like experimenting with genres,” adds Ghosh. Their compositions are based in Indian classical music and musical traditions from Eastern Europe. Percussionist Antoine Morineau and vibraphonist Eric Navet, who both live in France, soon joined Violons Nomades.

Violons Nomades has been invited to perform in some of France’s most popular music festivals. Their India tour is a first for the band, but Ghosh, who lives in Kolkata, regularly performs across the country. Marhem took to music as a five-year-old. He started off by learning western classical music, and grew to embrace jazz and Balkan music. As a session musician, Marhem is involved with other musical groups in France, which also includes jazz bands.

Percussionist Morineau, too, is a serious student of music. He particularly likes playing the tombak, which is a goblet drum from Persia. He is interested in Persian music and Indian classical music, which he learns from percussionist Subhashish Bhattacharya. As for Navet, he is trained in classical music and jazz, and is known for collaborating with musicians from all over the world. What binds the musicians is their mutual love for imbibing and learning from diverse musical styles.

Ghosh, who has many students learning Indian classical music from him in France, frequently visits the country. That’s also the time when he catches up with his band members, to compose and put together new material for their future gigs. Their concert in Pune will see them playing a set encompassing a broad musical palette — from Indian classical mixed with European music. Marhem will perhaps play tunes from the Balkans, which he describes as being suffused with haunting melodies.

The Violons Nomades concert in the city is being put together by Alliance Francaise de Pune (AFP) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER). All are welcome.

WHERE: Open Air Amphitheatre, IISER

WHEN: January 19, 7 pm

ENTRY: Free