

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

HT City - Calcutta
Friday 20th January 2006

Jazzing up festive beats

HT City Correspondent

The city is all set for another music fest. The Congo Square JazzFest with Indian and international artists kicks off on January 22 and features several groups performing at Dalhousie Institute on different days. "After a last minute cancellation last year due to Tsunami, we are expecting a healthy response this year. We are expecting a footfall of around 1,500 everyday," says Anjan Ray, secretary, Congo Square. The festival is an effort to promote jazz music in Kolkata.

Mandu Sarara: The quintet comprising Beto Spordeler on soprano, saxophone and flute, Lucas Vargas on piano Rhodes accordion and melodeon, Rui Barossi on acoustic and electric bass, Mario Galotto on drums and percussion and Rodrigo Braganza on acoustic and electric guitar is one of the highlights of the fest this year. The band takes ancient jazz compositions and arranges it in a modern style to give an urban feel to it.

Kenny Garrett: Another international musician from US, the saxophonist is one of the best in the world. His playing is characterised by a rough and raucous tone and a preference for jazz, funk and swing. Garrett who played as the saxophonist in the Miles Davis Band has also been nominated thrice for the Grammy Awards. Garrett will be performing solo as well as with his band comprising pianist Chris Dave, Shedrick Mitchell



on organ, and bassist Nat Reeves. He has also played with artists like Sting and Herbie Hancock.

HFT: Comprising guitarist Arjun Sen, bassist Lew Hilt and drummer Adhiraj Mustafi, the band maintains a unique style where the three musicians converse in the course of performance. The band gives a jazz run, a blues walk to an *alaap* in every composition.

Eric Löhrrer Quartet: Löhrrer, the guitarist along with the other members of the quartet, which comprises saxophonist Jean Charles Richard, bassist Eric Surmenian and drummer Patrick Goraguer, compose the tracks giving it an urban feel.

Three Ragas: The jazz trio from Pondicherry comprising Violinist Holger Jetter, bassist Mishko M'Ba and Drummer Suresh Bascara merges Western and Indian musical approaches through their very interesting compositions.



DALHOUSIE INSTITUTE: The JazzFest features performances by national and international bands on January 22, 23 and 27. **Timing:** 6.30 pm on all three days; **Entry:** Tickets priced at Rs 40 for every evening are available at the club; **Tel:** 22473423.

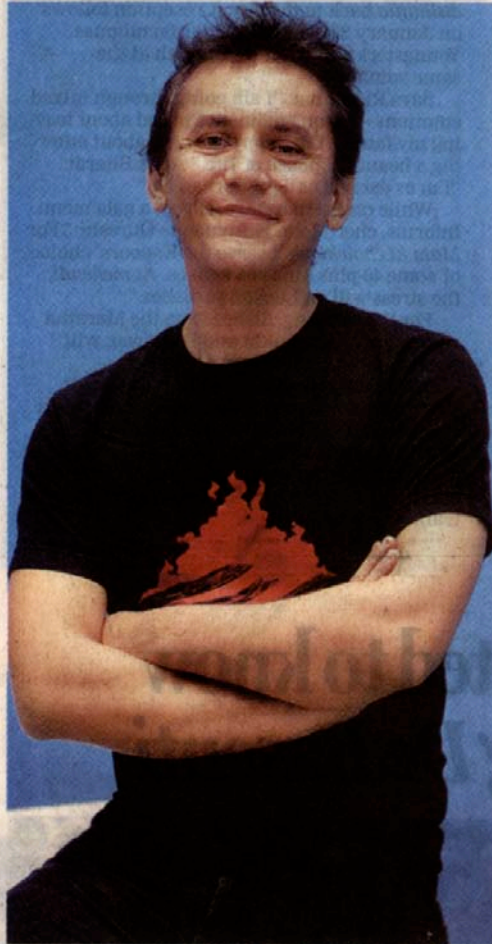


THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Tuesday 24th January 2006

The myriad mood swings of jazz music

Saill Bera



Ritujay Ghosh

Guitarist and composer Eric Lohrer does not remember when his inclination for Brazilian music began, but adds in the same breath that it is his tours conducted throughout the world that have helped him learn about various cultures. And that is what gets reflected in his music.

"I was born and brought up in France. Brazilian music is very rich and that is why I took up jazz," says Lohrer, who was in town with his quartet to perform at the Congo Square JazzFest.

Lohrer draws his inspiration from Brazilian jazz musicians like Milton Nascimento, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Egberto Gismonti. "I heard them for the first time when I was only 13 years old. At that time I was doing more of rock and soul music. My friends said that I should concentrate on jazz," he says.

The guitarist, who cut his first album at the age of 23, finds that touring the French provinces also helps him enrich his compositions. He infuses modern beats into ancient jazz compositions. "Fusing urban beats gives a different feel to jazz. Even Hindustani classical music is being

Eric Lohrer performed at the Congo Square JazzFest

fused. This helps popularise the genres," says Lohrer, who is an ardent listener of Indian classical music. "I have heard Zakir Hussain and Ravi Shankar. They do a lot of fusion and their compositions are admired by everyone in France," he says.

The repertoire of his band, which comprises soprano saxophonist Jean-Charles Richard, double bassist Eric Surmenian and drummer Patrick Goraguer, to a great extent, is made up of new compositions by Lohrer.

His last album, *Evidence*, is inspired by the life of monks. "It was a tribute to the famous Thelonious monks and has shades of soul," he says.

Over the years, Lohrer has been involved with a number of jazz groups like the Eric Lohrer Trio and Open Air. He has also collaborated with a number of renowned French musicians like Jean-Michel Pilc, Julien Lourau, Edouard Ferlet, Eric Lelann and others.

The composer-guitarist will release a new album when he is back in France. "It will be world music, where I have experimented with urban notes," he says. But before that, on his maiden visit to India, he plans to drop in at Chandannagar, a former French colony. "It will help me come out with some new compositions," Lohrer says confidently.

The Telegraph

calcutta, india

| Wednesday, January 18, 2006 |

Carnival of jazz, blues and beyond ANNUAL WINTER FEST RETURNS FROM SATURDAY

SUBHRO SAHA



The annual winter carnival of “jazz, blues and beyond” is back to warm the hearts of Calcutta’s jazz aficionados after a one-year hiatus, triggered by the tsunami.

The Congo Square Jazzfest 2006, a two-day international festival of world music (Dalhousie Institute, January 21-22), will feature Mandu Sarara from Brazil, **the Eric Lohrer Quartet from France (courtesy The French Association)**, Three Raags, a French-German trio, and HFT from India.

The major attraction at this edition of the festival will be the Brazilian quintet, which plays instrumental popular music. Mandu Sarara members are Beto Sporleder (soprano, tenor, baritone saxophone and flute), Lucas Vargas (piano, Rhodes, accordion), Rui Barossi (acoustic and electric bass), Mario Gaiotto (drums and percussion) and Rodrigo Bragganca (acoustic and electric guitar and Brazilian viola).

“The group aims at the preservation and dissemination of Brazilian popular music of authentic cultural value,” according to Ashok Banerjee of Congo Square, the catalyst group largely responsible for the recent revival of jazz and blues music in the city.

Mandu Sarara, which researches regional rhythms, will present a “unique collage” of rhythms, ranging from ‘frevo’, ‘baião’ and ‘maracatu’, as well as ‘choro’, ‘samba’ and ‘bossa nova’ at the Jazzfest.

Influences of iconic Brazilian musicians and composers like Antonio Carlos Jobim, Milton Nascimento, Egberto Gismonti and Hermeto Pascoal are prominent in their works.

“The great bet in the future of the group is on its virtuosity in mixing improvised and arranged music in a peculiar and expressive job,” Stefan Gan writes about the young group from Sao Paolo in *Jazz+* magazine.

The repertoire of the Eric Lohrer Quartet is made up of new compositions by Lohrer, as well as other members of the ensemble (Jean-Charles Richard on soprano sax, Eric Surmenian on double bass, Patrick Goraguer on drums).

Guitarist-composer Lohrer has taken part in many jazz projects, with Jean-Michel Pilc, Eric Lelann, Andy Emler, Eric Barret, Edouard Feriet, Julien Lourau. “He has also been involved with projects in rock, soul, world and contemporary music,” says Banerjee.

Three Raags is a jazz trio based in Pondicherry, Auroville, merging western and Indian musical approaches through free improvisation and fusion.

Violinist Holger Jetter and bassist Mishko M’Ba studied western classical, in Salzburg and Toulouse, respectively, while drummer Suresh Bascara studied the tabla and Indian classical music in Calcutta with Pandit Shankar Ghosh.

Jetter has accompanied Joan Baez, Mercedes Sosa and Konstantin Wecker, while M’Ba has played with Ray Charles, Charles Aznavour and Didier Lockwood.

HFT, which will open the show on Saturday before Mandu Sarara takes the stage, is very much a home-grown outfit, featuring Arjun Sen on guitar, Lew Hilt on bass and Adhiraj Mustafi on drums. The three musicians converse over the course of the performance, taking the audience through “a jazz run, a blues walk, a funk groove or an *aalaap*”.

ICCR is responsible for hospitality, while the sponsors making the two-day feast of contemporary and Latin jazz on the DI lawns possible are Aeicorp, Seagrams, Minto, Selvel Vantage and VH1.

(http://www.telegraphindia.com/1060118/asp/calcutta/story_5731971.asp)

The Telegraph

calcutta, india

| Tuesday, January 24, 2006 |

Melody magic in jazz jamming

The tsunami tragedy of December 2004 led to the cancellation of many events, particularly those related to entertainment and one of these was the jazz fest slated for January 2005. This wintertime ritual, which started in the 70s and survived into the early 80s and was revived a few years ago by the organisation called Congo Square, saw its 2006 edition take place last weekend.

(...)

A fitting finale to two days of rich music was the Eric Lohrer Quartet from France — Lohrer on guitar, Jean-Charles Richard (soprano sax), Eric Surmenian (double bass) and Patrick Goraguer on drums. Their music was traditional European jazz based on classical forms and it was mature and well seasoned.

Guitar and soprano sax make a winning combination and we were treated to some high quality, virtuoso musicianship by this band, with rhythmic diversity as well — opening with Foxtrot with an Afro-Cuban feel, going into Dolce Vita in slow swing, Danish Blue in a robust 6/8, Moons, a reflective virtuoso piece highlighting the double bass and drums played with brushes and Borne Fortune with a distinctive rock feel.

My personal pick of the four bands for their skill, depth and authenticity, they closed the two days on a high note.



The Daily Star

Committed to PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO KNOW

Thu. January 26, 2006

Concert

Eric's irresistible jazz notes

Fayza Haq

Eric Lohrer's Jazz Quartet mesmerised the audience on January 24 evening. This was at the Alliance Francaise Gallery, which seated a sea of listeners, despite the continual cold wave, political insecurity and other pervading distractions such as the end of the International Film Festival. The 90-minute performance on the guitar, bass, saxophone and drums transported one from a mundane existence to a western world, that sometimes ushered in eastern influences, as the mood took the players.

Eric's quartet bore his name as he was its leader. With flashing eyes and a mop of dark hair, he spoke about himself and his band from Paris -- which had flown in the day they played. Asked how his group had come together, Eric said that there was Jean- Charles Richard on the soprano saxophone, Eric Surmenian on the electric bass guitar, and Patrick Goraguer on the drums. "We're friends and have been playing together for a while. We originally played in other bands, and then played as a group. I was earlier in another group with Jean-Charles Richard. Eric Surmenian and I played in jam sessions. The drummer too was my earlier partner, although there he played the piano."

Eric and his band mainly play their own compositions, along with one or two covers (compositions by others). He said that what he was searching for was a "collective sound" of players who listened to each other and then responded extempore." I aim at interaction and improvisation, with a resulting mellow, combination of smooth sounds. We play modern jazz. Our music has the impact of players like Miles Davies, Herby Hancock and the modern musicians of that genre. At the same time we don't close our minds to pop music. Jazz is a music where you can be comparatively free; you can relate to different influences, whether it be pop or classical music," said Eric.

Asked if the musicians' families had musical leanings, Eric said that he himself didn't, but that his parents and friends encouraged him to take up

music. His wife who had accompanied him was a great source of strength -- as one could gather at the concert. Eric had studied philosophy and had picked up music as a hobby at the age of five -- which eventually led to his present profession. The bass and sax player, studied both jazz and classical music. The drummer came from a family of musicians.

Dwelling on the origin of the players, Eric said that all the members now live in Paris, and originate from there except the bass and sax players. Talking about whether they confine themselves to playing only, Eric said that they taught too, to supplement their income as performing musicians. "I like teaching but it's not easy, as I myself am self-taught. I think that what makes a successful musician is constant practice and dedication to music. One has to trust oneself. When we come together to practice for our shows, we play for hours at a stretch together, apart from playing on our own."

Eric's band has performed in Paris, Kolkata, Chittagong, Delhi, Pune, Ahmedabad and Pondicherry." I admire the way of the subcontinent people, as they are open and warm-hearted. I've listened to flute, sitar and tabla gurus, while in Paris, and find them remarkable."

Eric Lohrer's jazz band performing at Alliance Francaise



(<http://www.thedailystar.net/2006/01/26/d60126140186.htm>)

THE HINDU

Online edition of India's National Newspaper
Wednesday, Jan 25, 2006

New Delhi

All that Jazz

Madhur Tankha



NEW DELHI: A one-of-its-kind Jazz concert titled "Eric Lohrer Quartette" featuring renowned guitarist-cum-composer Eric Lohrer and three other talented musicians will be held at India International Centre (IIC) here this coming Saturday.

Organised by Alliance Francaise de Delhi and the French Embassy in India in partnership with Capital Jazz and IIC, the concert will also feature Jean-Charles Richard on soprano sax, Eric Surmenian on bass and Patrick Goraguer on drums.

The main attraction will be Eric Lohrer, who at the age of 23 recorded his first disc and then found himself deeply involved in a number of Jazz projects. His first project was "Eric Lohrer Trio" and "Open Air" and later collaborated with a number of musicians.

To show his versatility, Lohrer went solo in 1998 with an acoustic tribute to Thelonious Monk titled "Evidence" and also did scintillating rock `n' roll with the band "Superphenix". His latest project in quartet is devoted to his return to the Jazz scene.

(<http://www.hindu.com/2006/01/25/stories/2006012500760200.htm>)



NEW DELHI

CITY SCAN

MUSIC

GGSIP University; Jan 27; 10 am

As part of Spic Macay's Fest 2006, Pt Vishwa Mohan Bhatt will render a performance on the Mohan Veena.



CENTRE STAGE

MUSIC

IIC; Jan 28; 11 am

A Jazz concert by The Eric Lohrer Quartet will be presented. A self-taught man, Eric Lohrer, has been deeply involved in numerous jazz projects and then in collaboration with other musicians. He also went solo in 1988. Eric newest project, in quartet, has him performing with Jean-Charles Richard (Soprano Sax), Eric Surmenian (Bass), and Patrick Gora-guer (Drums).



જાહિન્દ દિલ્લે

પ્રકાશ ઽ પ્રગતિ ઽ પવિત્રતા

જય હિન્દ પબ્લિકેશન્સ વતી,
પ્રકાશક, મુદ્રક, તંત્રી: યશવંત નરોત્તમદાસ શાહ
આમ્રમ રોડ, અમદાવાદ.

સ્વાપક:- બાબુભાઈ શાહ

મુદ્રણસ્થાન:
જય હિન્દ પ્રિન્ટિંગ પ્રેસ, આમ્રમ રોડ, અમદાવાદ.
<http://www.jaihinddaily.com>

JAHINDAILY AHMEDABAD



એરીક, ચાર્લી રીચાર્ડ, પેટ્રીક તેમજ તેમનાં સાથી સાથે કેનેડા, ઈટાલી, સ્પેન જર્મની, બેલિજીયમ, ઈંગ્લેન્ડ જેવા દેશોમાં ખૂબ જ ઓછા વાજીત્રો દ્વારા લોકોનાં ફીલ રોક મ્યુઝીકથી ડોલાવ્યા બાદ તેઓ શહેરનાં આંગણે પણ આવી પહોંચ્યા છે ૨૩ વર્ષીય મહેમાનો તેમની કેરીયર ૧૯૯૮થી શરૂ કરેલ છે. તેઓ વાયોલિન, ટુમ, બાજ અને સોપર્ણા સેક્સ નામનાં વાજીત્ર નટરાણી ખાતે પોતાની કલાની કાબેલીયત દર્શકો સમક્ષ રજુ કરવાનાં છે.

(તસવીર:કે. મહેતા)

Saxindia

Dedicated to the practise and study of Jazz
Wednesday, February 01, 2006

Eric Lohrer Quartet - Live in Pondicherry



Last night Pondicherry in South India was treated to a superb jazz concert by French guitarist Eric Lohrer and his Quartet. The band also featured Jean-Charles Richard on Soprano sax, Eric Surmenian on the bass, and Patrick Goraguer on the drums. It was modern jazz of the highest quality, featuring a variety of compositions from all of the band members, as well as arrangements from other contemporary jazz composers. Apart from individual technical excellence, the musicians played superbly as a group. Communication between the members was very good, and they played with energy and intensity which was never allowed to be over-powering. In all this was a very good performance, and I can recommend going to see them as they continue their tour of India.

posted by Matt AV

(<http://saxindia.blogspot.com/2006/02/eric-lohrer-quartet-live-in.html>)



Kala Ghoda Arts Festival Days 3 and 4 - Mumbai

The Eric Lohrer band from France was headlining. They had Eric Lohrer on guitar and people whose name I unfortunately could not pronounce on sax, bass and drums. A very restrained, subdued bunch of musicians who preferred to lay back and feel each note rather than play a million notes (except the sax guy, who was a bona fide shredder). They had a bunch of original tunes with influences that ranged from Tal Farlow, Grant Green, Lenny Breau to the Mahavishnu Orchestra and Return to Forever. The high point of the evening was a lovely tune called 'Under the Stars' which put everybody in the audience in a contemplative mood. It had a sarangi solo by the bassist and a fantastic, restrained solo by Lohrer (he used a lot of volume swells throughout the gig on his chordal work). The bassist was very good throughout, though but very far back in the mix. Strangely, he was playing elec bass like an upright. The drummer was also very good, doing complex time signatures and a kick-ass drum solo where he played with his hands, a brush, those things with knobs at the end and normal drumsticks.

Another gig which I think will stay in my memory for a long long time.

Gear sighting: Gibson SG, Roland JC120, Line 6 DL



<http://www.indianguitartabs.com/archive/index.php/t-18794.html>