

Experience the magic of music in the dark at the Leeds International Festival

The Inner Vision Orchestra presenting their original piece for the first time this May



As part of the Leeds International Festival, SAA-uk (South Asian Arts-uk) is presenting The Inner Vision Orchestra, UK's only ensemble of blind and visually impaired musicians. This unique orchestra will present two performances and an afternoon workshop on Tuesday 1st May at the Stanley and Audrey Burton Theatre in Leeds.

Founded in 2012 by Indian Music Maestro Baluji Shrivastav OBE, The Inner Vision Orchestra aims to **promote blind and visually impaired artists, and to address their absence in the British music scene.** For the Leeds International Festival, now on its second year, The Inner Vision Orchestra has been commissioned with an original piece which will be performed for the first time on the stage of the Stanley and Audrey Burton Theatre.

The concert will largely be performed in **absolute darkness**, gifting the audience with an unforgettable experience, and **intensifying and prioritizing the sense of sound.** Only a digital projection will shine a light in the auditorium, creating a backdrop that will combine the evocative sounds with immersive visuals. The performance will bridge the gap between the artists and their audience, allowing everyone in the auditorium to experience **the magic of music in the dark.**

The day will start with a **workshop with the artists** from 2pm to 3pm, followed by an **afternoon performance** from 4pm to 5pm. The hour-long concert will be performed again from 7pm to 8pm in an **evening performance.**

The one-hour long performance has been influenced by a **wide range of musical styles and cultures**, which include, songs from Iran, Lebanon, Afghanistan and Nigeria, soulful melodies from Gospel and Blues traditions, sublime Indian Ragas, and Western classical compositions. Inner Vision Orchestra is made up by 14 members and is ever-growing and evolving. Musicians from many different international backgrounds offer up **distinct talents and a cross-cultural sound**.

Leeds International Festival is the UK's leading metropolitan festival of new ideas & innovation. The Festival's aim is to inspire and grow communities by bringing people together and promoting the discovery and exchange of new ideas, celebrating new and innovative international work. This year's edition will see more **local artists, creators and thinkers sharing the stage with world-class international talent**.

Tickets are from £10 (£7 reduction) and the convivial atmosphere of the Stanley and Audrey Burton Theatre in Leeds, with its cafe/bar area, will enhance an already rich experience with the opportunity to spend a magical evening with family and friends.

Tickets can be bought in advance and on the door. Box Office: 01132445523. Book Online: www.leedsinternationalfestival.com/event/inner-vision-orchestra/



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