

PRESS RELEASE/ Culture/ music

Indo-British fusion singer Susheela Raman's world music to rock Trivandrum

Trivandrum: Indo-British singer Susheela Raman who hates to be classified into any genre of music and brings into her music strands from various parts of the world, drawing from the ancient, medieval and modern will perform at the Kovalam Litfest rock festival in Thiruvananthapuram on October 12, along with globally known guitarist Sam Mills.

Raman's short India tour after which her band goes to Abu Dhabi for a concert of world music, will consist of shows in Mumbai, a concert for invited guests in Pepper House in Fort Kochi and then in Trivandrum. She sets off on her Indian tour after a 30 September 'Sacred Imaginations' project at the Barbican Centre in London. The Barbican Centre show will have esoteric musicians from different parts of the world who are united in their working knowledge of eastern and early Christian music, according to a report in The Guardian, London. "Parts of it will be like plugging into something from the fourth century," she was quoted as saying.

Raman is also on the verge of releasing her seventh album Ghost Gameplan. She is well known in India for her album Salt Rain which has her reinvention of Temple songs of south India. Her hit songs include Vel Vel, Sharavana, Ennapenne, etc. Raman also performs with famous Sufi singers from south Asia as part from Qawalli singers from Pakistan.

"For me the music I perform is a meeting of musicians, of individuals. It's not a theoretical, abstract thing. Music can and should destroy illusions of cultural vanity and separation," she said in an interview as a preview of her Kerala tour. "I think Sufi and Bhakti music has a certain spiritual intensity and openness. I love the feeling it generates and the way it reaches across barriers of identity."

Her band playing in Thiruvananthapuram has apart from Sam Mills, Lucie Antunes, the Parisian marimba and vibraphone percussionist who guests on Ghost Gamelan. Mills has spent a long time studying Indian music especially South Indian and Baul music. All this makes the band a rare combination of esoteric, rock and fusion music, a rare treat for music lovers in South India.

Tickets for the Kovalam Litfest show in association with Radio Mirchi Live are available for Rs 200m and Rs 500 (which includes lucky draw prizes like a Honda Navi bike) at www.INSIDER.IN.

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