

RAVI PRASAD - MALBAR EXPERIENCE (Lalouline Editions 2021)

In a stunning new release from Lalouline Editions, renowned composer, instrumentalist, and stage artist Ravi Prasad presents his newest work; a unique journey where ancient and modern cultures intertwine. Across eight pieces, this suite of songs takes us, from the recesses of "Tillana", the album opener, to "Spiritually Digital", in what can be best described as a 'Sonic Pilgrimage'.

The project started back in 2004. Ravi and all the musicians involved, took residency in Reunion Island where the project fructified. It was while collaborating with Talvin Singh, in his Songs for the Inner World album and tour (commissioned by the Saint Denis Festival in Paris), that Ravi met Oskar and proposed him to join and produce the project. He went on to produce, mix and master the album as well as being behind the synths and the live electronic music programming.

Ravi surrounded himself by talented Reunion Island musicians including Aldo Ledoux (accordion), Raju (harmonium), brothers Gilbert and, Kiki Mariapin (percussion and bass) while, Paris-based Frederic Norel played the violin for the project and Talvin Singh appeared as a tabla guest player on "Spiritually Digital".

Malbar Experience was recorded live by Paul Scemama in a series of electrifying performances both in Reunion Island and France. The postproduction was done at the Belleville studio in Paris. The project was then unfortunately halted due to external circumstances. It was only when Oskar managed to recover the recorded files that it was possible to finalise the production, more than a decade after the music was originally recorded. The final production, mixing and mastering took place in London at New Park Studio and Strongroom Studios, and a tour is being planned for 2021.

Once again Prasad marries the heritage of classical Indian Carnatic music, and its near-mystic resonances, with a modern palette of ambient sounds built around acoustic and electronic polyrhythms. The album has been skilfully produced, mixed and mastered by Oskar Vizan, who has worked for many years in a variety of media, albums, film, tours with internationally renowned artists such as Talvin Singh, Martin Glover "Youth", Sarah McLachlan, Sultan Khan, Miguel Bose among many others.

"Getting the opportunity to work with Ravi in such a special project was incredible. Spending time in Reunion Island, a melting pot of Indian, African and European cultures, and being able to experience it first-hand was simply unique. Having worked for many years with Talvin Singh helped me understand the craft and challenges involved when blending traditional and electronic music. I put that experience into practice using my own prism while trying to enable Ravi's powerful writing and incredible musicianship, to shine through" Oskar Vizan.

SONG BY SONG BY RAVI PRASAD

Tillana: This is a dynamic dialogue between Indian Dance music and Reunion Maloya music, one of the two main musical genres in the island.

Ashtamudi: It's a walk along the seaside where I talk about the atmosphere and similarities between the Kerala Malabar coast and the Réunion Island seacoast.

Ananda Sagara: This song is about the unstoppable rhythm of life and the energising pleasure of body movement so linked to both the Carnatic and Maloya traditions.

Nagini: Nagini is a snake woman... sometimes they can be worshipped and sometimes feared.

Malbar Blues: In my own imaginary world, time is writing and erasing endless paintings which are my own dreams and inspiration in life.

Ganesh Maloya: This is obviously about the dance of Ganesh that energetically shakes the earth taking away all obstacles from our paths. Like Ganesh's dance, this song gathers good positive energy for creative ventures and new projects.

Poove: This track is about one of the most popular and spiritual festivals in Kerala which is called Onam, a joyous harvest celebration full of dance and good wishes.

Spiritually Digital: When electronic soundwaves touch and impact your inner world, this is what happens!!!!