

# Lazie Indie Magazine

A close-up portrait of Ricky Kej, a man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt with a dark bow tie. He is holding a Grammy award in his left hand, which is prominently displayed in the foreground. The award is a gold gramophone with a black base. The background is dark and out of focus.

October, 2023  
Edition 42

## Interviews

Cara Knox  
Ectillam  
Zalyka  
Ms. Benita  
Jessica Falk  
Devante

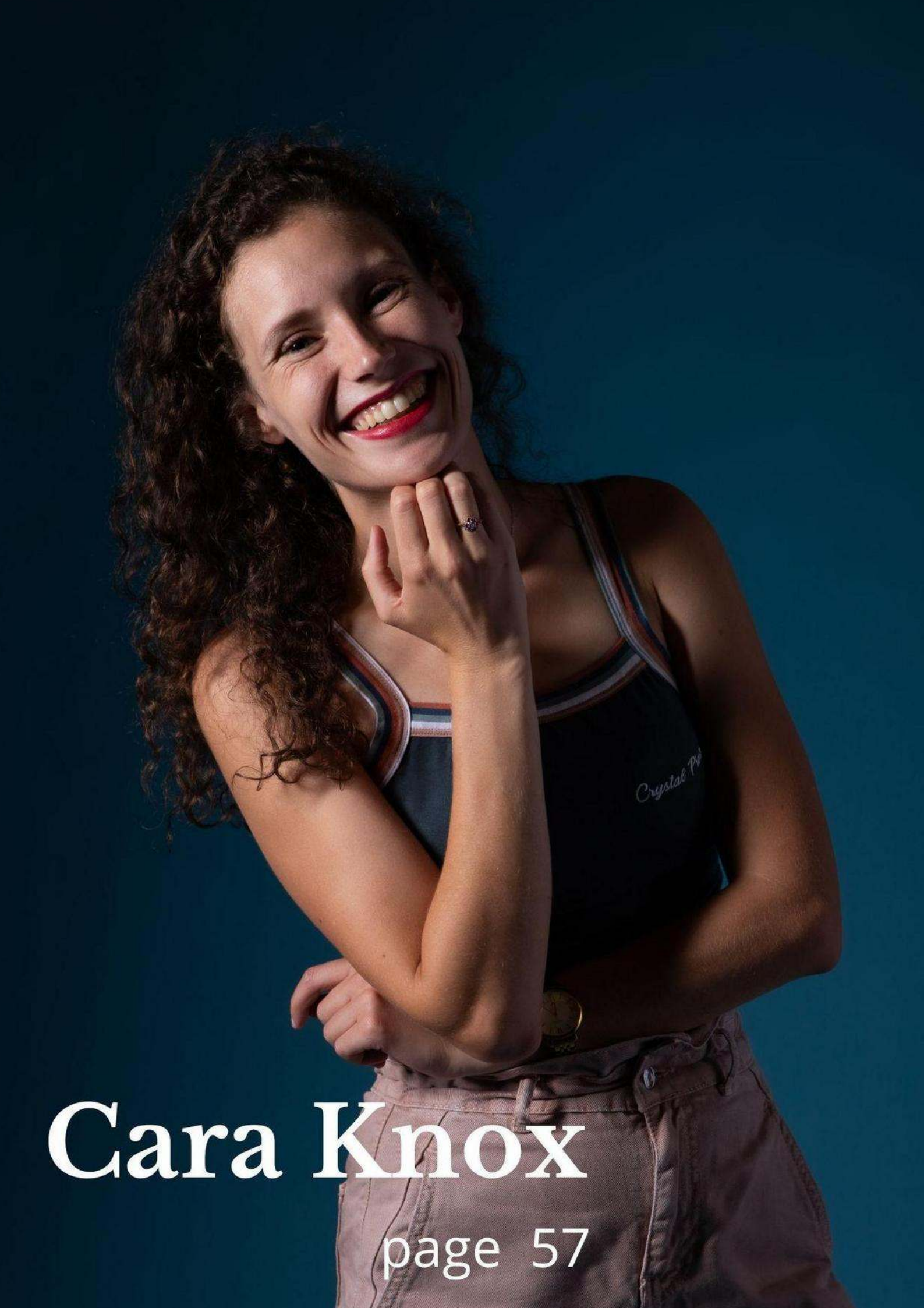
## IIMF Artists - 2

Psychopunch  
Dharma  
Bani Hill Band  
Girish & the Chronicles  
Kadal

On Cover

# Ricky Kej

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF RECORDING ARTS &  
RICKY KEJ  
Artist/Producer/Mixer  
BEST NEW AGE ALBUM  
WINDS OF SAMSA  
Wouter Keller



# Cara Knox

page 57



Zalyka

page 30

# Content

## Editors Corner

Jessica Falk

Zalyka

Psychopunch - IIMF participant ( Full interview)

Eettillam

Devante Watson

Dr. Benita

IIMF -2 Participants

Dharma

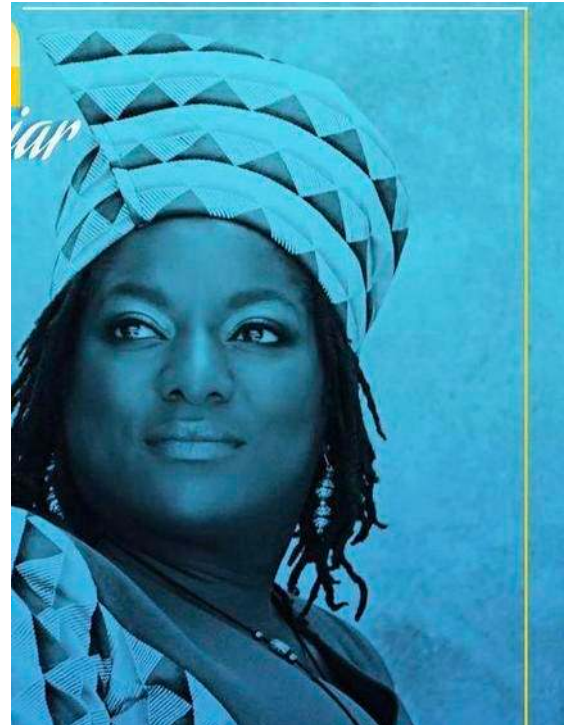
Girish & The Chronicle,

Bani Hill Band

Kadal

## Cover Story

# Ricky Kej



# Editors Corner

## Information

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Dr. Benita  
Grant and Barbara

**Cover Photo:**  
**Ricky Kej**

**Cover Photo Courtesy:**  
Ricky Kej



## **The IIMF-2 is just 2 weeks away.**

Lazie Indie is nearing its annual bash at Kovalam. IIMF-2 is 2 weeks away. This time we do have some powerful acts along with absolutely amazing set of artists. We are also running the second annual John Anthony Guitar Contest along with the IIMF. The submissions are over and the the votes are being cast by artists to promote their favorite guitarist who will win a fender before the audience at IIMF- 2. Lazie Indie has been able to bring in quality acts for the audiences and this time we do have the founding frontman of AC/DC along with some phenomenal and popular bands from all over the world as is the concept. We look forward to have a great event one in which the bands feel at home and perform at their best... Coming to this edition, We have the 3 times Grammy winner Ricky Kej on cover! We have some fabulous artists interviewed as usual. The contributors are doing a great job by getting fabulous artists to talk to LIM. Lazie Indie has reached one milestone after other this year. We got nominated for the Josie Awards and also the Wavy Music Award. It is a proud moment for each of us at Lazie Indie Magazine to get our name added to the finalists of such valuable awards. We thank each one of you for supporting us all the way from the day I started a tiny effort to present my fellow musician to our friends worldwide. The LIM has grown more than expected and today is respected by global music communities. So my only prayer to each of the readers of this magazine is to share the magazine, with your friends and acquaintances as this little effort from your end will be of great impact to an independent musician's career. Let us get a smile on the artists who give it all to present a great song to you. Thank you -Jay



GENERAL CATEGORY OF BEST SOLO ALBUM  
RICKY KEJ  
Album: Phoenice  
BEST NEW AGE ALBUM - 2014  
FROM MUSIC 2.0 (Hawaii)

GENERAL CATEGORY OF BEST INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM  
RICKY KEJ  
Executive Producer  
BEST INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM - 2012  
DIVINE TEMPLE  
(Chinmayi Chiplakand & Ricky Kej)

Cover Story

# Ricky Kej



## Ricky Kej

### The Man, The Artist. A Grammy-Winning Artist's Vision and Global Impact. *An interview with Lyia Meta*

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**D**espite a flourishing career, filled with coveted awards, recognition and critically acclaimed music, he remains refreshingly grounded and gracious. In an industry where success can sometimes breed arrogance, he stands out as being unpretentious, a musician whose extraordinary talent is only surpassed by his extraordinary humility,

which is a remarkable testament to his character. In a world hungry for authenticity, Ricky Kej remains a shining example of sincerity.

A three-time Grammy Award winner, composer and environmentalist, his talents have earned him resounding applause, admiration and respect of not only his peers but also world leaders, dignitaries, and music lovers worldwide. He has performed in over 30 countries, is a UNHCR "Goodwill Ambassador, a UNCCD Land Ambassador, a UNESCO - MGIEP "Global Ambassador for Kindness", UNICEF Celebrity Supporter, and he is an ambassador for the Earth Day Network. With a career that has transcended boundaries and genres, Kej is an inspiration to all. For the independent musical fraternity, he is a shining beacon of hope and a source of pride. Being an independent artist himself, he has taken his music to places every indie could only dream of. His unique ability to cross borders with his music has garnered him a loyal following and accolades from the highest echelons of society and it has cemented his legacy. Kej's mastery lies in his innate capacity to breathe life into his compositions, his business acumen in making the right decisions and at the same time being a people's person that is both charismatic and sociable. But above all, it is his perseverance to see his plans through even when the odds are stacked against him that serves him best. He dares to dream and so he does! As his star continues to rise, Kej is undoubtedly an artist whose promising career is on an extraordinary ascent. I caught up with him to gain an insight into his world and the diverse roles and responsibilities he has committed to.

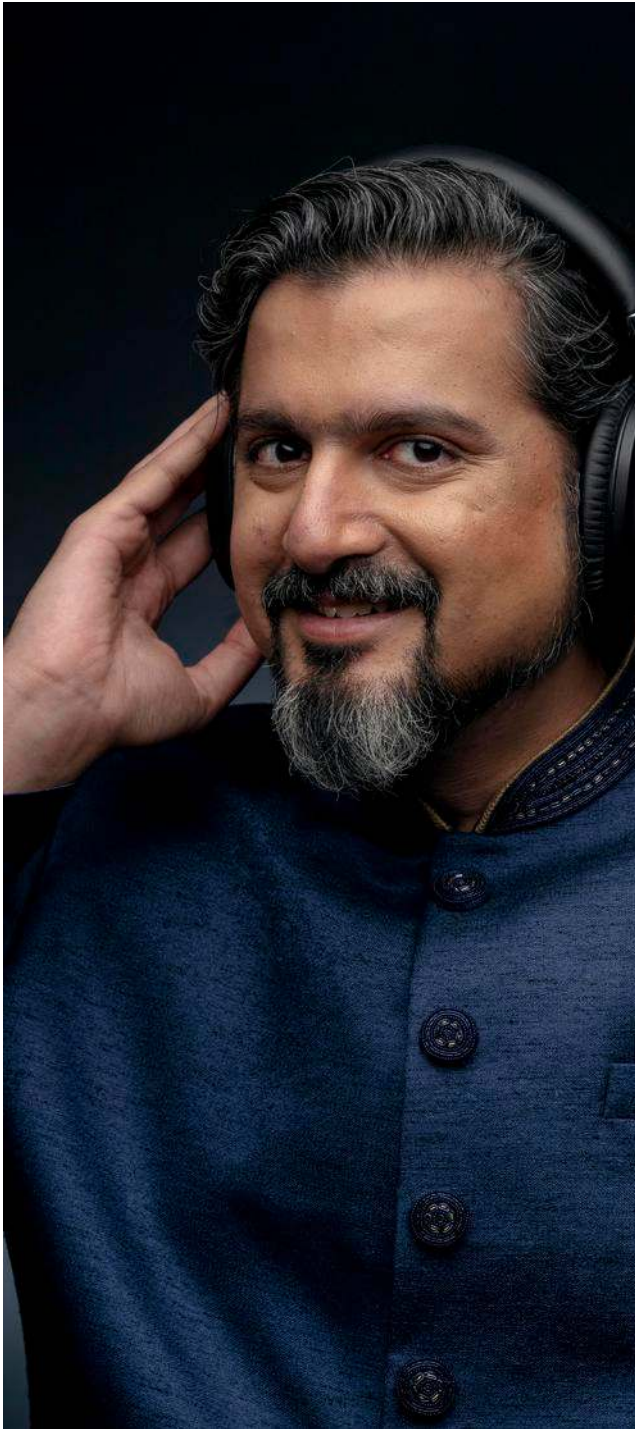
**LM:** Hi Ricky, welcome to Lazie Indie Magazine. Can you share with us what winning the prestigious award means to you personally and professionally? How has winning these prestigious awards impacted your career and creative journey?

**RK:** The Grammy Awards have always felt like an unattainable dream, especially growing up in India and making non-mainstream music. I watched the Grammys on television, and that was it. That was the extent to which I felt that my experience with the Grammys would be. But of course, when I was 33, I won my first Grammy Award. My music is always about a message, either social or environmental, and before I won my first Grammy, some people would take me seriously, and some people would not. But after I won my first Grammy, a lot more people started taking me seriously, and so on for the second and third. So I believe that awards should never be the end goal and nobody should be making art for awards, but at the same



time, when you are awarded or when I'm awarded, I feel extremely grateful because every single award is a platform for us to do bigger and better things, for us to collaborate with more people, and for us to spread our music and our message further and wider. So it has impacted my creative journey, not in that it has improved my creativity or changed the way that I create my music, but in that it has brought more validation to my creativity and allowed me to reach out to wider audiences.

**LM:** As a music composer, what inspires you the most when creating new compositions? How do you strike a balance between staying true to your unique style and exploring new musical territories?



**RK:** I guess everything around me inspires me. Because there are always two ways to create art. One way is when someone commissions you to do so. For example, for a film, an advertisement, or a video game, someone is paying you money and asking you to create art. And the inspiration is the words that the director gives you or the brand manager for the commercial gives you. That is what inspires you. And the more inspiring the person is, the more inspiring the brief is, and the better the piece of music comes out. Whereas for me, I create music that is based on my own sensibilities, my own philosophies, and my own thoughts. So, for me, it's about everything around me that inspires me. Maybe something that I read in a newspaper, maybe something that I hear at an environmental conference, or something that I see while I'm at the forest, or a feeling that I have when I'm within nature, or a feeling that I have when I want to celebrate our country, our culture, or our traditions. Or sometimes just other musicians inspire me. For example, if I'm listening to a folk musician or a tribal musician and they're so good, they touch my soul. When it comes to their music, then I'm just inspired to collaborate with them. And that itself helps my music-making process. So, there are multiple ways that I'm inspired, and I keep it as organic as possible. I don't try to look for inspiration. I just always hope that inspiration comes to me.

**LM:** As a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Goodwill Ambassador, you have worked tirelessly to raise awareness about refugee issues. How did you become involved with the UNHCR, and what has been the most rewarding aspect of your work in this role?

**RK:** Through the course of building a music career, I started working with refugees. I started working on gender





*"Mainly, my job as a Goodwill Ambassador is to amplify the issues and solutions when it comes to problems with desertification, withdrawal, forced migration due to it, and basically anything to do with land. So right now, we are working on a huge campaign known as Her Land, Her Rights".*

inequality issues and all of that stuff. And refugees became a very important part of my initiatives because I realized that a lot of these people have been asked to leave their country under completely dire circumstances; some because of immense persecution, some of them had to leave just with the clothes on their back, leaving their complete lives behind. Some of them and their entire families have been killed in the process, but they have escaped with their lives. Quite a lot of them are musicians, and some of these musicians had to leave their country because they were musicians. So that is when it started off with me wanting to work with these musicians and wanting to give them hope that they could carry on with their passions even though they are in India and a new country, and then it became like having this friendship with these refugees and helping them out in many

aspects rather than just their music.

**LM: You are also known as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Land Ambassador among others. Can you tell us about your work and what are some of the challenges you have faced in this role?**

**RK:** Yes, I'm the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Goodwill Ambassador, and I'm very grateful for the role. Mainly, my job as a Goodwill Ambassador is to amplify the issues and solutions when it comes to problems with desertification, withdrawal, forced migration due to it, and basically anything to do with land. So right now, we are working on a huge campaign known as Her Land, Her Rights. This particular campaign talks





about how women are disproportionately affected by land issues and climate change for many reasons. One is that in many, many countries in the world, women still do not inherit land from their ancestors, and it's not in their law. But women are the ones who work hardest when it comes to farming and when it comes to the land. And women do not have any rights over the land. So, this causes a huge problem because if there is desertification or if there's drought and land become unusable and the land is sold, then the women do not have any stake in it. Or if there is forced migration, men leave their women behind and go into big cities. This campaign is about ensuring that women have rights over their land, especially since women are the ones who are responsible for most of the work that happens on the land.

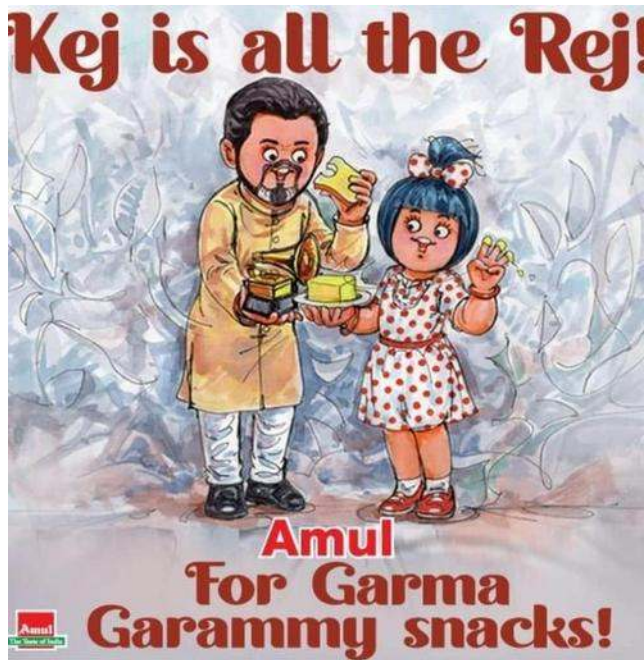
**LM:** As an Ambassador for Earth Day Network (<https://www.earthday.org>),



**you have played a crucial role in advocating for environmental conservation. What are some of the key messages you hope to convey to the public regarding our planet's sustainability, and what actions do you personally take to lead by example?**

**RK:** So, when it comes to the messages, of course, climate change is the overarching message because climate change is the biggest existential threat we have ever faced and something that all of us need to work towards. So, one thing that I have always advocated for is behavioural change. I think that is the most important thing because nothing can happen if we do not change our own behaviors. Because everybody talks about changing the world, but we very rarely talk about changing ourselves, and that is not because we are bad people; it is just simply because we have not empowered

ourselves to believe that we are significant enough. We always believe that whatever we can do within our own lives and within our own capacities is completely insignificant. If I stop using single-use plastics, what difference will it make? If I use public transportation, what difference will it make? If I am just kind to people around me, what difference will it make? But it is very important to understand that these different changes that we make within our own tiny capacities actually matter very strongly. Our Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, has started this initiative called the LIFE Mission, which stands for Lifestyles for Environment. It is a very good grassroots global movement that encourages everybody to lead a lifestyle that is more conducive to the environment we want to create. So, it is all about changing mindsets and stopping this paradigm of the use and throw economy that we are so



used to and instead reusing everything, buying only things that we absolutely need, buying things with a lot of deliberation, with a lot of mindfulness, and reusing everything that we buy. So, I think this is a beautiful movement that can inspire a lot of people. One thing that I always suggest to people is something that I did during the pandemic: in order to reduce your consumption, and this is mainly about city people, not about rural people who are already leading quite sustainable lifestyles, but when it comes to city people like us, what we need to do is reduce our garbage output. So during the beginning of the pandemic, when I did not have people to help me out to put out my garbage, I didn't even know how much garbage I was producing, but then when I had to do everything myself and then I had to put out my garbage every day, I was shocked that I was putting out about two buckets of garbage every single day, and then I realized that okay, if I reduce my garbage, then that means that I will reduce my consumption of packaging materials and I will start buying, I will start ordering food which uses less packaging or which uses packaging that can be reused and also

when I buy stuff from Amazon I will probably buy stuff which uses less packaging just to fulfil that aim of reducing my garbage. I will also start reusing everything that I have, even when it comes to wet waste. I will start using more of the materials that I am using for cooking and all of that stuff, and then I was very glad that in a period of about three to four months, I reduced my garbage to half a bucket every day. So that is the thing. I think that is one thing that everybody can strive towards: look at how much garbage you are producing and try to reduce that by half or reduce that to a quarter of the garbage, and then immediately you will start making changes within your own lifestyles to achieve that aim. And what I do in my own life is, of course, four things. One is that I get my carbon footprint audited every quarter. So I have this form that audits my carbon footprint, and then we have a meeting every quarter and we figure out what the carbon footprint is and how I can reduce it for the next quarter, and then I try to mitigate the carbon footprint through tree plantations and investment in renewable energy companies. The second thing that I do is that I don't subscribe to fast fashion. At any given point in time, I have 11 sets of clothes, and on stage, I use the same set till it tears, which is why all my photographs on Instagram when it comes to stage have the same sherwani, and I rewear all my clothes. I buy good-quality clothes, take care of them, and reuse them. The third thing is that I don't own a car, so I use public transportation and Ubers whenever I need to, but I don't own a car. I have not owned a car for the last seven years. The last thing is that I have a meat-free diet. So that is something that has a very strong cultural influence and should not be forced on anybody. Nobody should be hard on themselves, but at the same time, one has to make an informed decision as to what the impact of meat and the impact that our food has on our planet, you know, and especially when it comes to animal agriculture, and make a





decision based on your own cultural and traditional significance, your own health, and your nutrition.

**LM:** In your opinion, what is the role of music and art in advocating for social and environmental change? How do you believe your music and influence can make a difference in the world?

**RK:** I believe music is the most universal language there is. There is a rhythm to the way our hearts beat. I believe in the responsibility that comes with being an artist. I hope to inspire every artist to be more than just an entertainer. I think now more than ever, artists have the limelight they need, and they have platforms where they can stand tall and share their thoughts with people who will listen. I believe that with all the problems we face in our world, our biggest threat is that we constantly wait for someone else to make a difference. The only way we can bring about meaningful change is if we change ourselves. So I also hope to inspire my audiences and all of us to be the change we want to see in this world and empower all of us to believe that the small

incremental changes that we can make within our own lives, within our own tiny capacities, actually matter.

**LM:** With such diverse roles and responsibilities, how do you manage your time and balance your commitments?

What strategies have you found effective in fulfilling your various ambassadorial roles while maintaining your own artistic career?

**RK:** So, for me, my life is all about this. I mean, I don't have any kids. For me, there is no distinction between my personal life and what I do for a career because I love doing what I do, and even when it comes to advocacy work, it is something that is an extension of me. So, for me, I do not have this whole issue of work-life balance because, for me, it is all about this. And I have not gone on a holiday for the last 20 years because I wouldn't know what to do on a holiday. So, I have no issues like not finding time. It does get overwhelming at times when I have committed to doing many things, but the thing is that it is still constantly fun and exciting.

**LM:** Throughout your career, you have likely collaborated with many talented artists and musicians. Can you share any memorable collaborations and what you have learned from working with others in the industry?

**RK:** Of course, Stewart would be the most, because with Stewart it was the biggest learning experience. I was such a huge fan of his. I grew up with posters of him on my wall and all of that stuff, so collaborating with him was a big deal. He has a treasure trove of knowledge simply because he was the founding member of the Police and sold 75 million copies of his albums, or because he is called the greatest drummer in the history of music by numerous publications. But he has composed music for 50 Hollywood



soundtracks, so he has all of that experience, and so working with him was a huge, huge learning experience, and it still is with the new album that I am working with him on. So every day that I work with him, I learn a lot from him. Working with him is what I would call the best master class that one could ask for because just collaborating with him has increased my world knowledge, my musical knowledge, my knowledge of production, my knowledge of how to craft a piece of music, everything. Because up until I worked with Stewart, I was always in full control over every single piece of music that I made. It was the first time ever that I worked with Stewart when I had to give up control because it was a collaboration with somebody who was far more experienced and far more senior than me. So that itself was a huge learning experience of giving up control over your music, compromising on your own thoughts, and thereby doing something from a different perspective.

**LM:** Your music has resonated with people from different cultures and backgrounds. How do you approach creating music that has a universal

**appeal while staying true to your artistic vision?**

**RK:** At the end of the day, when it is a collaboration between different cultures, both cultures need to respect each other, which is very important. So it should not be like a pop song, like an American pop song with a sprinkling of a sitar or a sprinkling of a tabla or whatever. It has to have a mutual respect where both cultures feel significant in the piece of music. A very good example of that is Ravi Shankar. Whenever he collaborated with the Beatles or with the various other collaborations that are with Ayudhya Menon and with orchestras all over the world, it felt like both the Western counterpart and Ravi Shankar were equally respected. There was a mutual respect, and that way the music felt like a heart-to-heart connection. So Ravi Shankar was never used as a flavoring on top of the music. So it was deeply connected. Even when Ustad Nusrat Fateh Khan's best collaborations were with Michael Brooklyn and Eddie Vedder for the Dead Man Walking soundtrack, he did this song called Face of Love, which is one of my all-time favorite songs on the Dead Man Walking soundtrack. And if you listen to that, Eddie Vedder, who is the lead singer of Pearl Jam, and both of them did the song, and the song is so beautiful because Eddie Vedder has come in 50% into the collaboration and Nusrat Fateh Khan has come in 50% into the collaboration. And you don't know who's the hero in the collaboration. Both of them have come to this beautiful, equal level. So that is a very good example of collaboration when it comes to bringing cultures together. So the cultures need to be respected. And also, I do not believe in learning, let's say, African or Celtic music and doing that music myself. I believe in bringing a Celtic person on board or an African person on board because the truest way to stay true to a culture is to actually bring a person who is steeped in that culture into the piece of music. Because a lot of people feel that, Oh, I'm going to go to Africa, and I'm going to learn African music, and I'm going to do African music. And I'm like, "No, you know, going on a holiday to Africa is not going to make you learn African music. You find a whole lot of American people also, like, you know, who come to India and do a course for about a month or six months in the sitar, and then suddenly

**"There is a new album that I'm working on with Stewart Copeland, but I cannot speak much about it. It's a huge album involving choirs and singers from all over the world and large-format orchestras; it's the biggest album that I've ever worked on".**

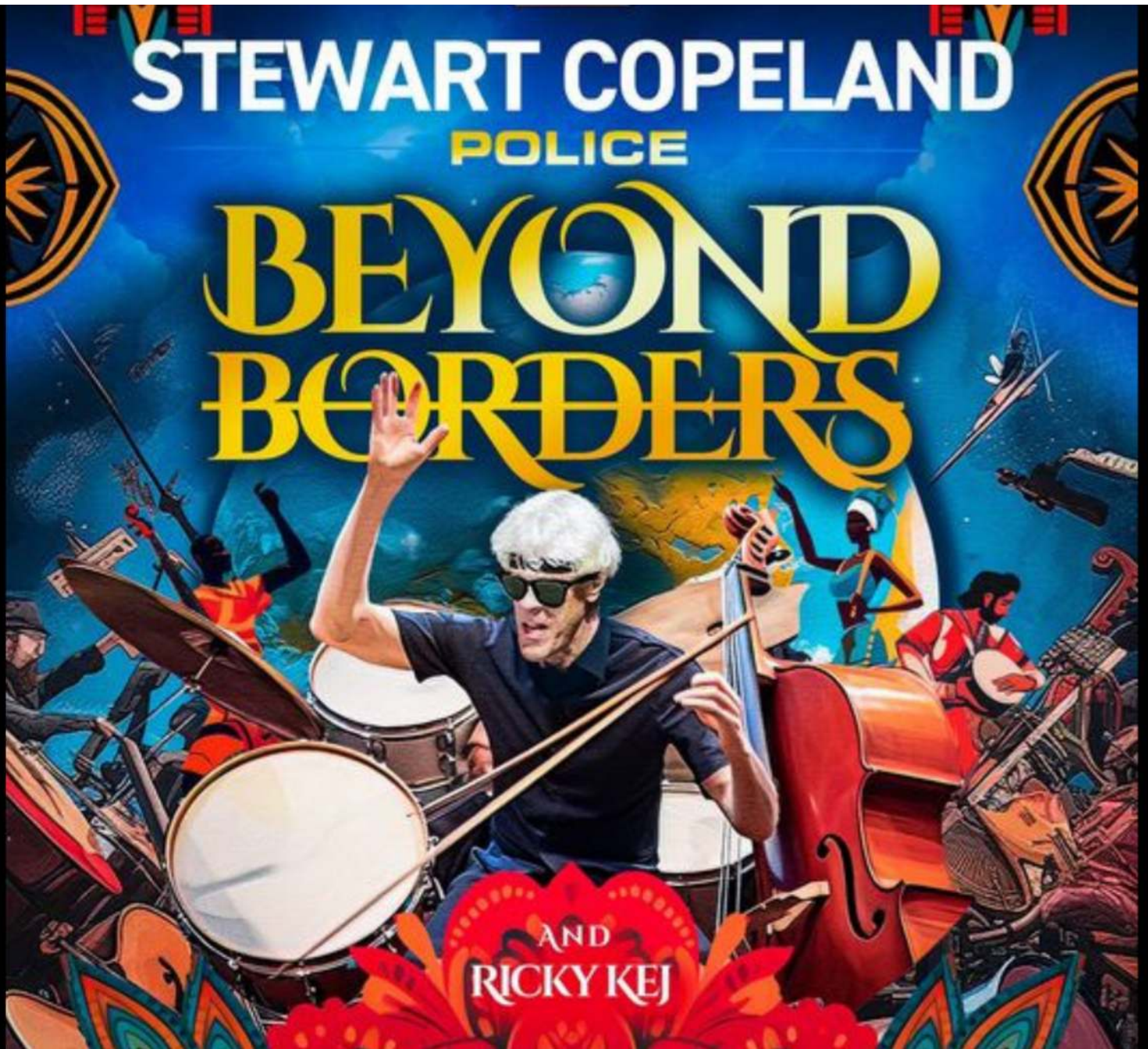
they believe that they are a sitar player, and then they believe that, oh, I do Indian music or I can write a book about Indian music. But that's not true because the sitarists in India have lived the life of playing Hindustani classical music, and they've learned the sitar for about, you know, 12 years, 20 years, or 30 years, and they live the tradition. So you just cannot beat our sitar players, just like we cannot beat the Western musicians at what they do. So I think everybody's got their own place. And if you are fascinated by, especially, an ethnic cultural form of music, then it's best that you collaborate an ethnic cultural form of with a person from within that tradition. Learn a little bit about the tradition, but it's best that you collaborate with them. But learn just enough so you know how to collaborate with the person and not try to do that cultural form of music yourself.

**LM: The music industry is constantly evolving, with new technologies and platforms shaping the way we consume and share music. How do you adapt to these changes and continue to connect with your audience in meaningful ways?**

**RK:** So I'm not a first adopter of technology because I'm not in touch with it that much. But my studio is constantly upgraded. So, in the way that I make music, I think I use a lot of technology. But as I said, I'm not a first adopter, but my music always uses a lot of technology in the composition and even in the creation process. Because I think technology should always be used as a tool rather than something that dictates your creativity, the vision is the most important thing—the vision of the song.



what the song should sound like, and what emotional impact the song should have on the end listener. These are the most important things, and then technology helps you get there. So if there is a new technology that comes out that helps me get there faster, then obviously I'm going to use that technology because, for me, that's what it's about. That technology should help my voice and my creative process, and it should help me get to that end result, which is achieving my vision faster. '



**LM:** Looking ahead, what are some of the upcoming projects or initiatives you are most excited about? Are there any specific goals you hope to achieve in your roles as a Grammy award winner and as an ambassador for various international organizations

**RK:** The Her Land campaign is something that I'm working towards right now with the UNCCD and the upcoming album. There is a new album that I'm working on with Stewart Copeland, but I cannot speak much about it. It's a huge album involving choirs and singers from all over the world and large-format orchestras; it's the biggest album that I've ever worked on. I am also releasing an album with Abbey V, a Canadian Indian artist. These are the projects in the immediate pipeline for me.



Kej's unique relationship with Stewart Copeland of The Police, has proven fortuitous with two Grammy wins. Since our interview, the much-awaited album that Copeland and Kej was working on has been released. **BEYOND BORDERS** features an impressive global flavour (and undertaking!), with all the classics from The Police reinterpreted with artists representation from nations including South Africa, India, Japan, China, Canada, the UK and more. Their synergy has breathed new life to the songs that fans of The Police have come to love. This reimagined masterpiece provides reinterpreted approaches to the timeless pieces and lyrics that once defined an era! With its modern twist and innovative arrangements, this new album transcends boundaries, as it appeals to both the nostalgic and a new wave of listeners. Is Ricky Kej, a catalyst for change? Yes, he is! He is a reminder that we should all dare to dream and hope. That through perseverance and constant pursuit



of one's goals, we are unstoppable. We just need to believe and put in the work!

### About the Columnist

**THROUGH CORRIDORS** is a column by Lyia Meta “Musings, observations, music related articles and interviews from around the globe. Anything and anyone that resonates with me.”

Lyia Meta is a member of The Recording Academy and a Grammy® voting member, An international multi award-winning singer and songwriter, producer, song stylist and an exhibited visual artist, she is a full time performer. “In a kaleidoscopic world of music, few artists manage to refract light into as diverse a palette as Malaysian singer Lyia Meta” Billboard Magazine.ar





Jessica Falk



**Jessica Falk** the popular Swedish singer-songwriter and musician started playing the piano at the age of 7. Her debut album, "The Nashville Sessions" was released in September 2011 with contributing artists such as Charlie McCoy, Chip Young, Bob Mater and Vip Vipperman. Her music video "Rainbow" climbed to eighth place on the music site Naver, one of Korea's largest digital music sites. On September 15 this year, Jessica released the EP "SURVIVORS". The music and lyrics have been allowed to develop over a few years in Nashville, where the songs are written and recorded together with Nashville's songwriter and musician elite. The recording was created at Addiction Studios where usually Carry Underwood, Keith Urban, Journey and others recording. Producer and co-songwriter is Scott Baggett (known for having worked with Dolly Parton, Alison Krauss, Hank Williams jr, among others). [Grant](#) and [Barbara](#) from [Galaxy FM NZL](#) speaks to **Jessica Falk**...



**Barbara:** What do you consider are the highlights from your great run as a musician so far?

**Jessica:** The highlight is when I was invited to Nashville by the legendary and harmonica player Charlie McCoy in 2010, to record my first album "The Nashville Sessions". I didn't know then that I would record my Album, together with the musicians who made our music history. They play on hits like "Jolene", "Son Of A Preacher Man, "In The Ghetto" and many more. They are close friends of mine today and I am proud that I dared to start living my life again after my mother died in the tsunami 2004 in Thailand. I started to writing songs 4 years after a deep depression when I said yes to life and left the darkness, the world opened up for me.

**Grant:** When and how did you decide to become a musician?

**Jessica:** When I was 9 years old. I came home from school one day and said to my mom that I know what to do for living – music is my life. She said as long as you are happy – just go for it little girl! My mother bought me a piano when I was 7 years old and since then, I've played almost every day ?

**Grant:** Who are your musical influences?

**Jessica:** Many, because I've been playing in the piano bars for 10 years and I love many different music genres. Some of my musical influences are; Elton John, Norah Jones, Taylor Swift, Dolly Parton, Shania Twain, and of course Swedish Roxette and ABBA.

**Barbara:** How do you go about your music creation? How are the songs written and produced?

**Jessica:** My first producer 2010/2011 was legendary Charlie McCoy and since 2012 I work close to Scott Baggett. The music and lyrics have been developing over a many years in Nashville, where the songs were written and recorded. Together with Nashville's songwriter and music elite, the new EP was created at "Addiction Studios" which is often the recording home for Carry Underwood, Keith Urban, Journey and many other stars. Producer

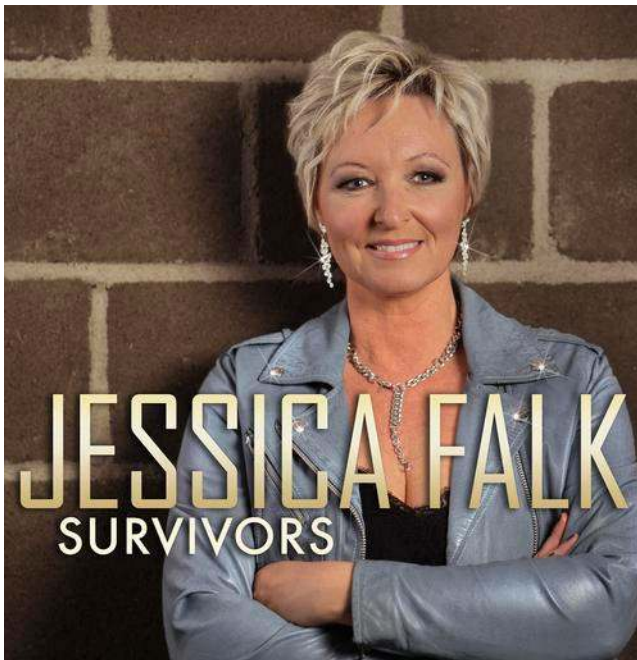




and co-songwriter is Scott Baggett, known for having worked with Dolly Parton, Alison Krauss, Hank Williams Jr among many others in the country and rock fields. Since 2010 I have become a part of the songwriting community in Nashville. Together with my now close friends Bobby Wood, Vip Vipperman as well as with producer Baggett, I have written these songs about the love of life and survival. This comes after a few tough years for me, where I survived severe illness and personal tragedies. I was originally invited to write and record by legendary musician Charlie McCoy. McCoy has been known as a “musician’s musician”. From Roy Orbison to Bob Dylan to Johnny Cash, the list of hits is too long to even try to name. In these first sessions I met pianist and songwriter Bobby Wood who became my mentor as well as good friend. Wood has had an unbelievable career stretching back to the late 60’s working with icons Elvis Presley,

Dusty Springfield, Neil Diamond and playing on hundreds of hit songs. To many, Wood is best known for being Garth Brooks pianist on all his recordings since 1988. Me and Bobby have written several songs over the years. On the EP, we have written the ballad “You’re The One” together. The first single from the EP, “I Don’t Know Why”, was released on June 1 and has been added in 15 countries and has been received positively for its message of forgiveness and moving on with life after hard times. It was written together with Vip Vipperman (Emmylou Harris, LeAnn Rimes, Reba McEntire and others). I want to say this about the EP – “I hope with my new music, to be able to inspire others to make the most of life, enjoying all that is possible. Daring to reach for inner dreams and regret nothing”. As my lyric says, “We are all survivors in this life”

**Grant:** Where can we see your music releases over the internet? Tell us about



your latest or upcoming release.

**Jessica:** Youtube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok. New Music Video release Friday October 20th. I will also release another music video from my new EP in November and I will also release a duet together with Jan Johansen, a wonderful artist from Sweden.

**Barbara:** What do you like to do the most in music? Writing, producing or performing live...

**Jessica:** Even though each one has its own flavor what do you like the absolute best? I absolutely love following the process from writing a song to producing it and then going out and meeting the audience and sharing my heart and soul with them.

**Grant:** What are your immediate future plans say for the rest of the year and the next year?

**Jessica:** I will release new music and also release a biography about my life, which is about enjoying life and not regret anything and about living your life to the fullest.

**Grant:** If you want to tour as an artist where would your choice of destination be? and Why? Would you play in India given a chance?

**Jessica:** I would love to tour the US again,

but also New Zealand, Australia, Europe and YES! I would love to come and play in India. My music is a mix of pop, rock and a taste of country. There is a song for everyone.

**Barbara:** What was the best advice given to you and what would you give as a piece of advice to fellow musicians?

**Jessica:** My music is an open door into my life. Music is everything. It has helped me through bad and good times, Music heals. It's my joy, my fear, my vision, my failures, my hope, my desires, my dream – my life. All my songs have a true story behind them. I want my music to be honest and for it to be something that everyone can relate to. I hope people can find hope, strength and love through my lyrics and music. I want to help people to believe in themselves. Find the courage to follow their hearts and live their lives. I believe that when words fail, music speaks.

You'll find more about me and my music here:

Website: [www.jessicafalk.com](http://www.jessicafalk.com)

Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/5MxyKeQSG1c51NVzRqpUdY?si=w8zozoUHRd6wTi6wXqST5w>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JessicaFalkMusic/#7366090263405618>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/jessica.falkofficial/>

Newest music videos: I Don't Know Why:

<https://youtu.be/pgkstEm2DG4?si=BbRa49DDGjiKFyqx>

Survivors: <https://youtu.be/1K9So5oeyn4?si=9jTZhdtDMbZpDjF>  
Without You comes on Friday 20th.

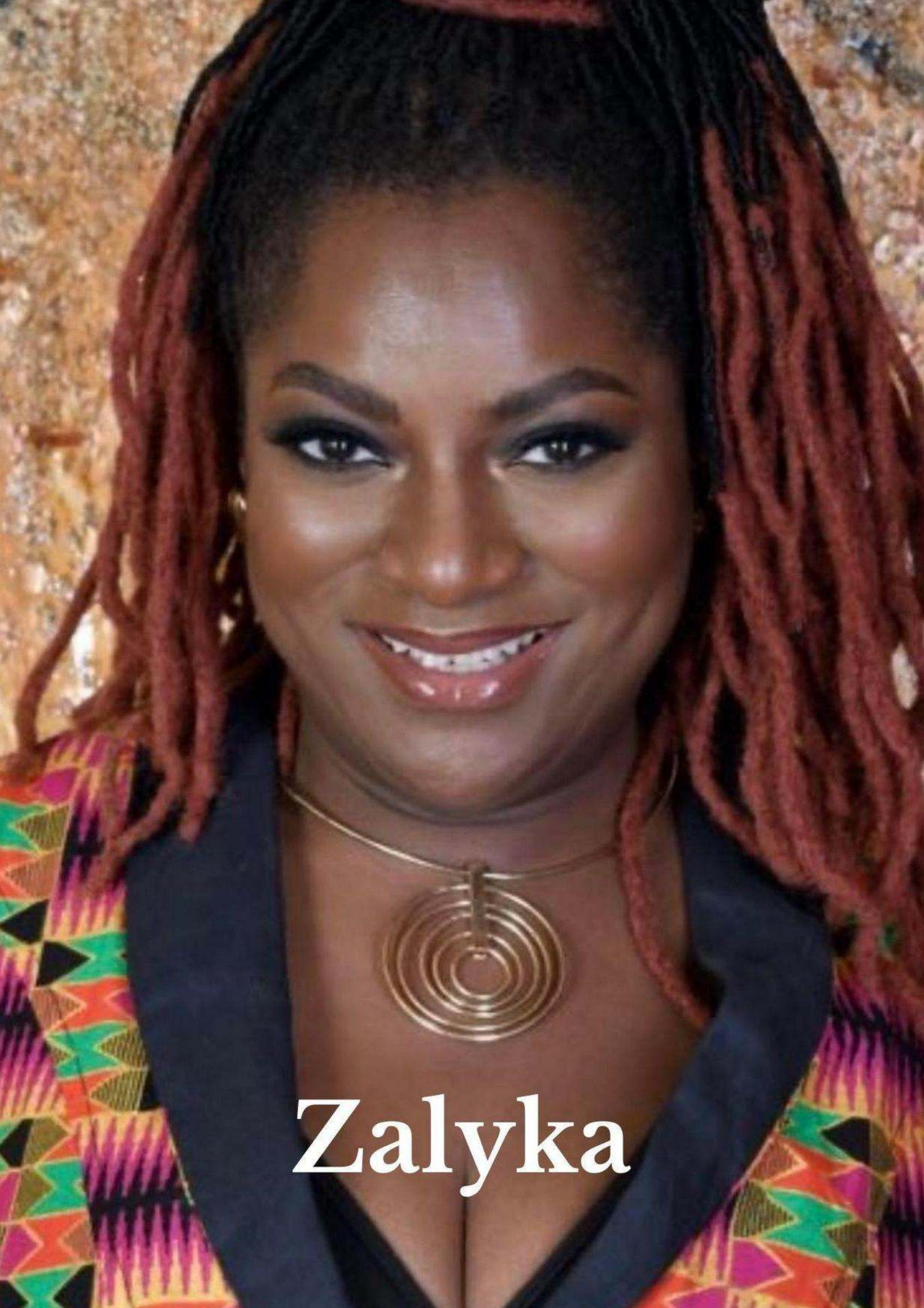
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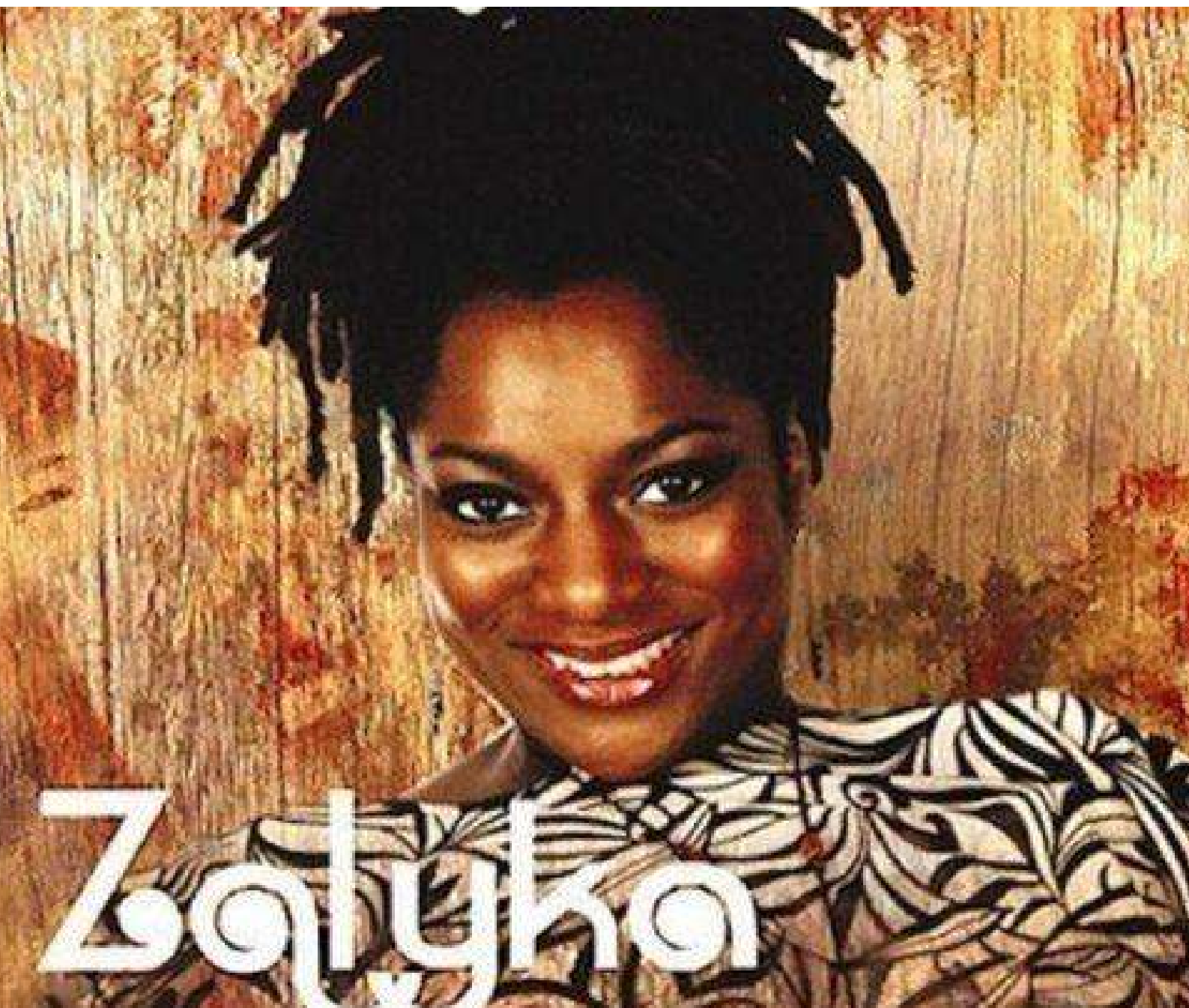
### About the columnist

Around the Galaxy is a column contributed by Galaxy FM 107, New Zealand. Galaxy FM is one of the top radio stations in New Zealand and is quickly expanding its listener base across the world. The authors of the column, Barbara Harkins and DJ Grant are well known radio hosts at Galaxy FM hosting the popular Breakfast Show. LIM thanks team Galaxy for their support. Website- [www.galaxyfm.co.nz](http://www.galaxyfm.co.nz)





Zalyka



**Zalyka** the popular singer from France who was born into a family originally from Guinea-Bissau has some of the big names working on her new album which is her 3rd. The album from this somewhat bygone period into the studio. "*Percussive and festive, "No badja", latest album (third after Follow your dreams, in 2010, and Adoro Viajar, in 2017) by Zalyka immediately introduces us to the torrid climates of the golden era of the international breakthrough of music Africa at the end of the millennium, between the 1980s and 2000s*". says her press release. Lazie Indie looks into this fabulous musician and quizzes her about her career so far and her plans. [Emma Goldberg](#) in her column *Just like Emma* introduces **Zalyka** to Lazie Indie readers... Check this out!!!



**Emma:** Hi Zalyka , welcome to Lazie Indie Magazine. You have had a long and exciting career in music so far, how do you see it yourself?

**Zalyka:** I'm very happy because I have had the opportunity to work with good musicians and singers during my career. I have done three albums in different styles, and I hope that I can make new projects in the future

**Emma:** Who is/are your musical influences? How did you pick up music as a career option?

**Zalyka:** I have a lot of influences due to my African origins. I can sing various styles as African rythms, Gospel, Soul, jazz

**Emma:** How do you go about your music creation? How are the songs written and produced?

**Zalyka:** I write and compose myself and I work also with composers to open new influences in my music

**Emma:** Where can we see your music releases over the internet?

**Zalyka:** Tell us about your latest or upcoming release. You can hear my music in all the platforms, spotify, deezer, Itunes and others, and you can see also my videos on YouTube. My new song is also available in physical version.

**Emma:** You have worked with a number of greats, who are musicians whom you loved to work the most with and why?

**Zalyka:** I love to work with musicians from my country Guinea Bissau, because it's an opportunity for me to sing on new rhythm and influences, it's good for a child who was born like me out of her country of origin

**Emma:** What do you like to do the most in music? Writing, producing, or performing live

**Zalyka:** I like to do all because I have more freedom

**Emma:** What are your immediate future plans say for 2023 or 2024?

**Zalyka:** Continuing to promote my new album issued in June 9th, and performing at several concerts.

**Emma:** Among all your collaborations



which one is the dearest to you? and why?

**Zalyka:** My collaboration with African musicians, but I'm open to work with new musicians with new influences from other countries to give a diversity to my music.

**Emma:** What was the best advice given to you and what would you give as piece of advice to fellow musicians?

**Zalyka:** To stay natural and not trying to do what the others are doing just because it's trendy.



### About the Columnist

**Emma Goldberg** is French Pop Singer, Composer, Video Producer, Author writing in Italian, Spanish, English, French. She also is a radio host in Radio 242 UK introducing independent musicians to audiences across UK, France and the nearby countries. Emma has her own radio show called *Just like Emma* which is maintained here for the column she contributes to [Lazie Indie Magazine](#).

INTERNATIONAL INDIE MUSIC FESTIVAL

IIMF  
2023

★★★  
**PSYCHOPUNCH**  
VST

ROCK



**Psychopunch** was founded in Västerås, Sweden in 1998. they manage to be very reliable in terms of persistence. They've never changed their original style, they've kept producing great, rocking singalong tunes with catchy melodies and gritty guitars. All that without loosing sight of musical evolution and without being afraid of new and unusual influences, even though their list of musical heroes is already long. Their roots lie somewhere in the 1970s and reach out from old original punk rock bands over metal, glam and hard rock to recent music styles. Psychopunch is travelling India fist time for the IIMF. Jay from [Lazie Indie Magazine](#) speaks to members of **Psychopunch**.



**Jay :** Hi Jarmo, welcome to Lazie Indie Magazine. You have had a long and great run as a band so far, how do you see it yourself?

**Jarmo:** I think that we are kind of blessed since we have been able to do this for so long and continue to do so. We have incredible fans and friends who supports us. Without all of them this wouldn't be possible! We absolutely love what we have done so far and and what we're still doing. We are looking forward to release more albums, keep on playing shows/ festivals and head out for more tours and of course visit and play countries we never played or visited before.

**Jay:** How did the band come into being, Who picked whom to form the band?

**Jarmo:** Trying to make a long story short here. Me and Joey been friends for years and played together back in the days. One late evening when we were watching an NHL game we decided it was time to form a new band together. Joey worked in a recordstore back then. One day a guy (Mats) from another band walked in and asked if he wanted to join their new band. Joey told him that "me and Jarmo" is forming a new band. That was the perfect start for the band since both me and Joey played guitar and Mats and Johan played bass and drums. So we decided that we should form a new band together. We wrote 8 songs, recorded them and sent them out to different labels. No one wanted to sign us so we decided to take matter in our own hands and record and release an album with our own money. First idea was to name the band Suckerpunch but we discovered that there were already a few bands with that name. We liked the tone of the word Suckerpunch so we came up with Psychopunch! While recording a record label (White Jazz Records) heard we were recording and asked if we could send them the recording when it was done. We agreed and sent them the master and got a record deal the day after! We changed a few members during these years but we all are still real good friends and see



each other now and then.

**Jay:** Who is/are your musical influences? Why did you choose your genre of music?

**Jarmo:** I had an older brother that sadly passed away (2020) and he was more in to the hardrock scene than me. But since I always got to hear that at home it got me more in to that music. Harder rock. Then one friend from my class in school told me to come over. He bought a single and wanted me to listen to it. It was Sex Pistols and I was hooked! So I guess I would say that my influences are Ramones, Aerosmith (early years), Sex Pistols, The Clash, Generation X, Kiss (early years), New York Dolls and Cheap Trick.

**Jocke:** Kiss, The Eagles, Jimi Hendrix, Meshuggah and many more in all different genres. Rock/Punk music has a great energy and variation, it can be melodic and still have a great drive and speed.

**Jay:** How do you go about your music

creation? How are the songs written and produced?

**Jocke:** Usually someone in the band has got some riffs that we try out and put our different feel to it and it becomes a Psychopunch rocker!

**Jarmo:** Yeah it like Jocke says. For me it is just sitting with the guitar and the music comes at the same time as some of the lyrics. It is hard to explain but you get the feeling what the lyrics should be about when you play. Then we try the song in our rehearsal room and see what can be added or changed. Record a pre-demo to take home and listen if we are on the right track before we record. Sometimes we make some changes while we are in the studio. But most often we have the song arranged already and just "spice" it up with some more instruments or melodies.

**Jay:** Where can we see your music releases over the internet? Tell us about your latest or upcoming releases.



**Jarmo:** Our latest album is called "Greetings From Suckerville" and it was released 2019 (Massacre Records). Sadly we only had one tour to promote that one before the pandemic hit the world. We released a video for the song "I'll Be Home Tonight" from the album during the pandemic. Since it was not easy to make a video during the pandemic we asked a lot of friends (around Europe and the US) to join in by sending us clips filmed with their cellphones! Turned out to be a real cool and fun video that our friend Dirk "The Pixeleye" Behlau put together. We were also going to support Hank Von Hell (Ex Turbonegro) in 2022 but it never happened since he sadly passed away. At the moment we are booking shows for the next year and writing new songs for our next album.

**Jocke:** Spotify, Youtube, iTunes and lots more. The song with most streams on Spotify is "The Way She's Kissing with over 2.000.000 streams. Something we are very proud and happy about.

**Jay:** What do you like to do the most in music? Writing, producing or performing live... Even though each one has its own flavor what do you like the absolute best?

**Jarmo:** I really like creating new songs

and see how they develop in the studio and feel blessed when they are released. But most of all...perform live in front of an audience! To see people enjoying and sharing the power of our music together with us.

**Jocke:** For me it's performing live! Writing and recording is alright but the feeling of interacting with your fans while playing live beats everything.

**Jay:** What are your immediate future plans say for 2023?

**Jarmo:** To play at the IIMF in Kovalam, Kerala, India! We are really looking forward to be part of this. Meet and see a lot of the artists, both international and Indian. To meet new people and hopefully new friends and fans. Our debut in India and we are so happy and honoured! Next thing is to continue to write new songs for our next album and book more shows for 2024.

**Jocke:** Well there is not that much of time left of 2023 but we will write and record for a new album for next year.

**Jay:** How is your tour plan to India shaping up... What would you look forward to gain from your participation at IIMF Trivandrum.

**Jocke:** We are really looking forward for our time in India, lots of new experiences, meet people and blow the audience at the Festival away with our performance.

**Jarmo:** I agree with Jocke and also getting to know new people, making friends. Spreading our music to more people and hopefully we can come back and play more shows. As we said, we are happy and honoured that we were asked to be part of this event! Right now we are rehearsing the songs for the show. Jocke (drummer) is back in the band after a few years and sadly Jonas (lead guitar) couldn't join us (personal reasons). So we are happy that a friend (Dan) could fill in for him and join us. So a lot of rehearsals for us to make the songs really tight and rocking for IIMF!

**Jay:** To tour and perform as a band, where would you love to travel repeatedly and why?



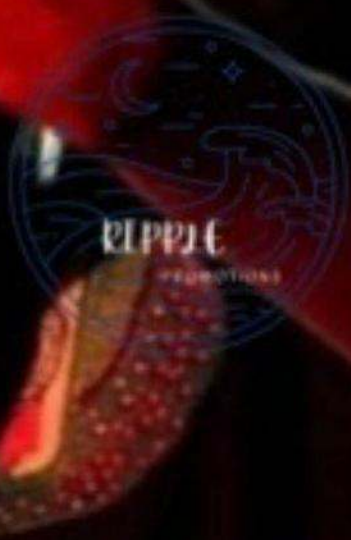
**Jocke:** We have done so many awesome tours in Europe over the years, we hope to reach some new areas in the future, hopefully we can return to India.

**Jarmo:** Once again I have to agree with Jocke. Awesome tours and festivals around Europe. Germany has become like our second home and we just love to play there! So many friends and fans there. But of course we would love to experience new countries. There are so many places we want to play and we can only hope our dreams come true!

**Jay:** What was the best advice given to you and what would you give as a piece of advice to fellow musicians?

**Jocke:** Play with feeling, have fun and create the music you want to do that's the most important thing.

**Jarmo:** If you follow those steps (and of course follow your dream) you will for sure enjoy your own music more and feel honoured, proud when people enjoy the music and feel part of it. Have fun and be humble!



# Ettillam



????????/Eettillam is a malayalam word which transliterates to, a birth place, our ultimate perception of the space where creation happens, in turn this planet, the womb, mother earth. The concept and it's musical journey started a decade ago from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala by the founder and only original member since it's inception Ratheesh Leela who is the principal song writer, guitarist and vocals for the band. Eettillam's musical expression is formed from living inside a lifestyle dedicated to practising and creating music from inside the society, contemplating the reality of events and believing strongly in the power of music and it's ability to connect with people, nature and in turn in tune with this universe. After a decade long line-up changes, Eettillam now are a three-piece band consisting of Ratheesh Leela on Vocals, Guitars and Lyrics, Devan Narayanan on Bass Guitar. [Hari](#) from Lazie Indie Magazine through his column Sonic Blooms presents Eettillam...



**Hari:** What have been the highlights in your career as musicians?

**Ettillam:** All the moments, music was played, perceived and celebrated by a mass as one. We believe it as a journey of a life form in this planet musically, rather than a career.

**Hari:** What is the core philosophy behind the concept of a Malayalam folk metal band?

**Ettillam:** As every language sounds distinctively beautiful, our offer to the world is A new sound in Malayalam language.

**Hari:** Who is/are your musical influences? How would you categorise your music, if you were to mention a genre? Why did you choose your genre of music?

**Ettillam:** Ratheesh recalls the timeless Malayalam classics which his mother sang all throughout his childhood which still resonates as it is in his memory which in turn might be the greatest influence in all the songs he has written and composed as Ettillam. All those great songs which were sung and laughed about in all our friend circles are also our influences in music. Categories are made from an audience perspective and as far as we know right now we are called as a Malayalam Metal band, all our songs are based on very strong view points which requires to be sung from a heavy orchestrated soundscape, so in a way the genre chose us rather than we choosing the genre.

**Hari:** How do you go about your music creation? How are the songs written and produced?

**Ettillam:** All songs are written and composed from the heart and in his truest nature by our frontman Ratheesh leela who also plays the guitar. Songs are heard in a way in which his vocals complete what he tries to communicate through his guitar and the other way around all together. Bass and Drum emancipates what we are trying to say as a group aligning with whatever the song says as we agree unitedly on it and are determined to make it heard as loud as possible.



**Hari:** Where can we see your music releases over the internet? Tell us about your latest or upcoming release.

**Eettillam:** All our releases and music videos are easily available on YouTube and for high quality good listening experience tracks have also been uploaded to Soundcloud, Bandcamp and Spotify ( All links attached with the band bio)

**Hari:** What is your choice of recording/ performing gear? why do you prefer them?

**Eettillam:** Our choice of Practise/ Recording/ Performing gear all the same as we sound the same while Practising, Recording and Performing and we carry around our guitar and bass amplifiers to wherever we go to perform as it holds the

**Eettillam:** We plan to release our Debut album titled "Uyiru" meaning "Life" itself hopefully in the coming year.

We struggle a lot with keeping a stable financial curve to self produce our album as most of the spaces and organizers which are to promote independent music scene out make money out of the craft which has years in its making. Hopefully we find a producer to put out our album consisting of 15 Malayalam Metal songs over a time of 2 hours.

**Hari:** If you want to tour as a band where would your choice of destination be? Why would you pick that location?

**Eettillam:** Our destinations over the time were always those spaces which demanded and needed the Music. Most of our live shows have happened in public

*"To be in Music itself is the thing we like to do the most. A musical journey once started is still going on and tone to our soundscape".*

tone to our soundscape. We believe that being true to ourselves in whatever we are doing reflects a lot about how raw and true we sound to this world, therefore we chose this way.

**Hari:** What do you like to do the most in music? Writing, producing or performing live... Even though each one has its own flavor what do you like the absolute best?

**Eettillam:** To be in Music itself is the thing we like to do the most. A musical journey once started is still going on and tone to our soundscape. We believe that being true to ourselves in whatever we are it'll still go on forever, such is the power of music and what keeps us in it. Writing, producing and performing are facets of this journey and we enjoy each and everyone of them thoroughly and learn from it. Since it is all connected in a logical framework of working ways we enjoy doing each equally.

**Hari:** What are your immediate future plans for the coming year?

spaces which has never before hosted a music gig.

We have served as the gateway band to "band music" and Metal Music and we intend to travel wherever there is a demand for music, to newer and ignored spaces.

**Hari:** What was the best advice given to you and what would you give as a piece of advice to fellow musicians?

**Eettillam:** Keep Going On and Keep Going On.

- Thank you.



### **Contributing Columnist**

Sonic Blooms is the column by writer, music producer, composer and multi-instrumentalist Harikrishnan. Constantly inspired by the stories of unbridled humanity in the tunes and sounds that we all enjoy and celebrate from around the world - Hari, mentored by the founders and the community around Lazie Indie Magazine is finding his way through his passion for music and storytelling. He is also best known for his work with the alt-pop band, The Indian Joint.



Devante Watson



**Devante Watson** is an R&B artist with ties to Trap Music from Holly Hill South Carolina but now residing in the city of Portsmouth Virginia. His smooth vocals and witty punchlines gives his music a 90's R&B but street vibe along with a positive message. At an early age Devante remembers his now deceased brother "Smoke" dropping rap bars to him by a camp fire. From that day on he gain a strong passion for music and began recording at the age of 14. His musical influences are Tank, Drake, Jamie Fox, Lil Wayne, Joe, Rick Ross, and Mail Music just to name a few. He transitioned from building his professional career and growing his beautiful family and began recording once again in 2022 and has blazed the trail for his music career ever since. **Dr. Benita** speaks to **Devante Watson**...



**Dr. Benita:** Devante Watson where are you from?

**Devante:** I am from the big hearted small town in Holly Hill South Carolina. A town full of hustlers but where you can also find more churches than stop lights. I now live in Portsmouth Virginia which is an awesome place to live. This is the same city that the living legend Missy Elliot is from.

**Dr. Benita:** At what age did you find out you loved music enough to be an Artist?

**Devante:** The first time I knew I loved music enough to be an artist had to be when I was in the 10th grade which made me about 16 years old. My cousin Marcus and I made a song called "Ride With A G" and we also had shirts made with our faces on it. We performed in our high schools talent show and once I opened my mouth to sing the whole auditorium erupted. At that very moment that's when I knew this is what I want to do for the rest of my life. After our performance we had people begging each day for a CD and countless people asking could they buy a shirt. After that day we had a mini tour going on because other high schools were calling asking us to perform at their talent show. This was the beginning for me.

**Dr. Benita:** Do you remember what you were doing or how it made you feel that day?

**Devante:** Found the love of singing at an early age going to church with my mom and going to revivals with my big sister Sheila. I would to see the singers having the toughest and hardest street guys wiping tears away from their eyes because the song was that deep or they sang it so good! That's when I knew I wanted a piece of that! When I was in the 3rd grade I found my love for rap when my now deceased brother Antonio and I were seating at a camp fire. He was making words rhyme together that I never heard before. At the time I didn't know what he was doing was called rap and I knew thats what I needed to be doing too. So although I'm a R&B singer I also rap in remembrance of him. RIP Antonio!

**Dr. Benita:** Which Celebirty would you



*"I would to see the singers having the toughest and hardest street guys wiping tears away from their eyes because the song was that deep or they sang it so good!"*

say influenced you the most in the music industry?

**Devante:** When it comes to R&B the celebrities who inspired me the most have to be Tank, Tyrese, and Mali Music when it comes to Rap the celebrities who inspired me the most have to be Drake, Rick Ross, Gucci Man, and Chy the Prince.

**Dr. Benita:** Name a few places that you have performed in.

**Devante:** A few places I have performed have to be of course Virginia, South Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware. And I'm looking forward to performing in North Carolina and Philadelphia later this year.

**Dr. Benita:** You performed at the Summer Beach Party & Vendor Market with The Ms Benita Show TV & Radio International Network how was your experience?

**Devante:** My experience at the Summer Beach Party & Vendor Market was incredible. I met some amazing people in the music and film industry. Most of all I tried some of the best food that Delaware had to offer. It was an event I couldn't afford to miss and I look forward to performing at many other events Ms Benita has. The building was amazing! It had a Concert hall 2 VIP Rooms and Artist Lounge Full Kitchen and Bar, 1 grand stage 1 mini stage in the VIP suite and a private suite. The place was so beautiful.

**Dr. Benita:** So you are an Entrepreneur please let us know about your businesses.

**Devante:** Buisness #1 FHB Watson Capital is my rental property business. We currently have two properties and we plan on having another property available for rent next year. Buisness #2 T & D Party Rentals is the business my wife and



I operate where we rent out our Bounce House for adult and kid parties. We do one or two day rentals and we are available to set up anywhere in the Hampton Roads area. • Buisness # 3  
 Legendary Drip Fashion is our men's sneaker and clothing store where we operate online. We have everything you need from Jordan, Yeezy's, Nike's, and various sweatsuits.

**Dr. Benita:** Wow Do you have anyother buisnesses that you want to mention.

**Devante:** Yes I forgot to mention my last and most exciting business which is my entertainment career. I just started my career back up just this year. I had took a break for a while but now I'm ready for the world!! This year I have released three singles, two music videos, performed at countless shows, and appeared in a movie that will be released later this year. I also had the opportunity to model for the app Neighborly and those still shots should be available for viewing next year. So I must say everything is going great!!

**Dr. Benita:** Tell us about your family?

**Devante:** Yes, I have been married to my beautiful high school crush Tabitha Watson for two years now and we have

two amazingly gorgeous daughters Ava and Aria. Providing for them gives me the strength to keep pushing and also to show them that you should always pursue your dreams regardless of the circumstances in your path. My wife and kids are my world everything I do is for them.

**Dr. Benita:** What's your motivation to pursue music and your other entertainment ventures?

**Devante:** My beautiful mother Louise Watson was my most loyal and faithful fan. No matter what I was doing she was always there supporting me every step of the way. She passed away this past March from her second battle with cancer. She always said that she thought I'll be on TV one day so I'm not stopping until I make her words true. That's why I'm releasing my first EP on December 12 honoring her titled "PeeWee Son"

**Dr. Benita:** Do you have any last words?

**Devante:** Yes I would like to thank Dr. Benita & Jay - CEO of Lazie Indie Magazine for this amazing opportunity!

Thank you.



### **About the Columnist**

Dr. Benita Rufus-Gassi is an award winning Community Activist with a Doctorate in Theology. She is an International Reporter for TMBS Network & Affiliates. She is the Ceo & Executive Producer of TMBS TV & Radio Network International Media Outlet! She is a all-around entertainer. Go to [www.msbenita.com](http://www.msbenita.com) to learn more...



Dr. Benita



We know **Dr. Benita** and we have had her introduce a number of talent to our readers through her column in Lazie Indie Magazine. We have spoken to Dr. Benita before but there is a lot she does to support Independent musicians and to the society overall. We thought it was important to catch up with her on developments at her end of the world and to update our readers on the work she is putting in to help the Indie community. **Jay** of **Lazie Indie Magazine** speaks to **Dr. Benita** to know more about all that is happening and what is brewing...



**Jay:** Dr. Benita what have you been up to since our last interview?

**Dr. Benita:** Well Jay I've been working on my music & running my network & of course still doing my community outreach projects.

**Jay:** What new music do you have?

**Dr. Benita:** I have a new song about being bullied for being pretty. Growing up people tried to bully me but I was the type that could take up for myself & for others around me. This song means a lot to me and when it's finished I'll share it with the world.

**Jay:** Why did you choose the Artist Name Benita AppleBomb?

**Dr. Benita:** I chose Benita AppleBomb because people have always called me that since the song Bonita Applebum came out lol... there's even a part where they say Bonita's, Jimmy's... My salon was Benita's & Jimmy's was the babershop down the street from my salon lol... So people always thought they were talking about us but we are not sure who A Tribe Called Quest was referring to at the time.

**Jay:** You are a signed recording artist to Xennial Records where is this located?

**Dr. Benita:** It is located in Nashville Tennessee. My manager is Carlton Boleyjack.

**Jay:** You had 2 Events recently please tell us about them.

**Dr. Benita:** Well Jay on June 16th 2023 we had GODS GOT TALENT SHOWCASE in Milford Delaware at Jesus Love Temple! This event was amazing! There was Music, Live Entertainment, Food, Beverages, Prizes, Free Gifts, Vendors & More! It went so well the next one will be on Saturday December 9th, 2023 at Jesus Love Temple in Milford Delaware! We had so many people participate and we were grateful that they were apart of this amazing production. Contact Ms Benita at [tmbsradiomusic@gmail.com](mailto:tmbsradiomusic@gmail.com) to register or just for more information!! Than on Saturday August 26th, 2023 at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center in Rehoboth Delaware we had our Summer Beach Party & Vendor Market Event. This



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Vip Pink Carpet @6pm



**GOD'S GOT TALENT SHOWCASE**

was a fundraiser for Dr Benita Ministries, EIM, Stamp Love & David Lamar Williams Jr. (who is running for Lieutenant Governor for the State of Delaware). Big Concert Hall, VIP Gold Room, VIP Platinum Room, Artist Lounge, Private Suite, 3 Kitchens, Big Stage, Private & Public Restrooms, VIP Entrance & more. **Vendors:** Dale, Mike Ice, C-Note, Phylis, Boss Mom, TeeTee, Crystal, Karen, Kim, Theresa, Holmer, Dewey Formula, Ganier, Justina, **Registration:** Tylyssa & Kenya. **Security HEAD:** Rhyno Peace Keepers CEO TJ (ALSO) Deon & Tasha. **Personal Chef & Staff:** Lydell, Staff: Charlie & Porsha We also served the late Wyoming Ross Jr. Famous Bay Wy Mac n Cheese **Host:** Kevin Da BadGuy & Lady Love **Production Manager:** Monica Norris **Dj's:** Main Hall DJ Snead VIP Hall The Legendary DJ Formula. **Artists:** Benita AppleBomb, Ms Lavon, Billy Mac, Kandie Kaye, Kevin Da BadGuy, Lady Love,

Hope, Jas Coop, Rico, Pikxy Skye, Ally, Devante, Hpnotiqrapperr, Rightoncue410, GunSmokeYTD, C-God4Life, Melissa, Lala Kakez, **Special Guests:** Todd Hunt from STC Films. Movie Detective Brooks. Tamika Hudson *Actress in the Movie Love & Deceit by September 10th Films & also a Speaker at the event!* **Honoree:** Joseph Johnson from September 10th Films. Collage of TMBS International Network & Affiliates On October 14th at Runway Liberia International Awards Show in Baltimore Maryland, I presented the award for Hair Stylist of the Year! In the Blue I was Hosting the Island carpet for The Island Party in Dover Delaware. We also have our next Gods Got Talent Showcase that people can sign up for before December the 3rd 2023. *Call Ms Benita on her Public line at (302) 331-1153 EST.* This is a major industry event with Prizes, Live Entertainment, Great Food, Give aways, Vendors & More... \$10 to come see!!

A portrait of a woman with curly hair, wearing a black top and a watch, resting her chin on her hand. The background is a solid blue color.

Cara Knox



**Cara Knox** is a musician based in Norfolk, but originally from South Africa. She grew up singing songs around the bonfire and exploring sounds using improvisational instruments, and when she moved to the UK as a teenager, music became a catalyst for her self-expression. In recent years, her songs have been picked up by national and international radio stations, including BBC Radio, and she has performed at sell out venues throughout the UK, such as the Waterfront (Norwich). recently she released her single and her video to support Save the Rhino International. **Hari** from [Lazie Indie Magazine](#) speaks to **Cara Knox** to know more about her career so far and her future plans...

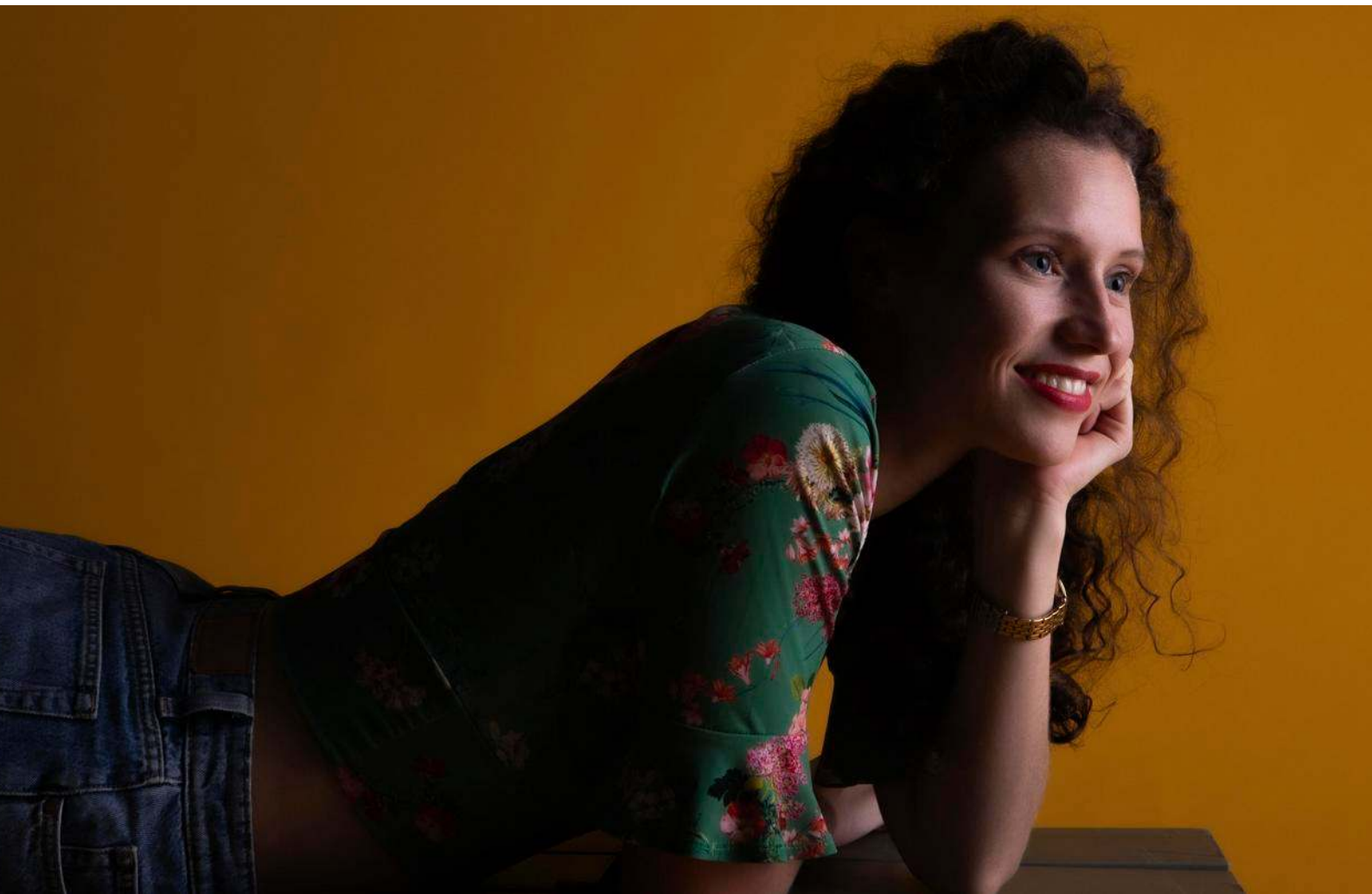


**Hari:** How would you define music in general? Or more importantly songs? What do they mean for you?

**Cara:** It is hard to put into words what music means to me. Songs are more than just an assembly of notes and lyrics that can make you feel happy, sad or understood. They are almost an essential form of communication that I seem to have always been fluent in. I grew up in a house of diverse musical tastes, with my parents dancing to rock and roll, my brothers blasting punk through the speakers, and developing a love of country pop music myself. When I moved to the UK from South Africa at the age of 12, music became something of a companion to me. Listening to and writing my own songs helped me to make sense of my feelings and experiences as I navigated a foreign country. I was reminded of this during the COVID lockdown when, once again, I turned to songwriting for comfort. Now, it has formed a crucial part of my identity and I have recently made the leap to become a full-time musician, leaving my job in healthcare. I hope to connect to people through my songs, and provide them with the same sense of joy that I feel when I discover new music.

**Hari:** What is your process of writing a song? Or working on the melody? What happens in between the lyric sheet to streams?

**Cara:** This is always tricky, because no two songs of mine have the same writing process. For some of my songs, I get inspiration from real-life relationships or experiences that instantly translate into a verse or chorus. For others, getting lost in a make-believe world forms the basis of a song, and draws out my imagination and love of storytelling. Generally, once I decide on the subject of a song, I like to "feel" the chords on the guitar, and by this I mean that if I want a song to feel happy, I will choose fun, uplifting chords. If I want it to be sad and reflective, then I will navigate the more somber-sounding chords. Once I decide on my chords, I work out a rough structure to the song,



and generally form a melody without lyrics by humming along. Once I have my melody, I work on and tweak the lyrics, always referring back to the underlying message of the song. Recording the song as a demo, listening to it on repeat and sharing it with close friends helps me to decide on any changes, and it tends to continuously evolve (I have even been known to make some last minute changes in the studio!).

**Hari:** What is the song 'Pretty' about? How did you go about writing it? What's the story of the song and behind the song - so to speak?

**Cara:** The vision I had for 'Pretty' was to write a fun, upbeat summer song that instantly grabs people's attention and puts a smile on their face. With all of the adversities that the world is currently facing, I wanted the song to be something of a distraction. The basis of the lyrics is to acknowledge those who make things look and feel better when you are with

them, and to remind us that we can always find beauty and joy in spending time with our loved ones. It is for this reason that I recruited members of the public to take part in the music video, standing alongside their friends, family or companions. I also filmed the video in aid of 'Save the Rhino', who work to protect Rhino's across Africa and Asia; a cause which is very close to my heart. When writing the song, I drew inspiration from my own relationships, and threw in a few metaphors to help bring the song to life and convey an amusing narrative.

**Hari:** What do you like the most as an artist - performing or recording? Why?

**Cara:** If you asked me a year ago, I would have told you that I hated performing, and this is because I tended to feel quite anxious and uncomfortable being on stage. While I still feel nervous before a performance, this has significantly changed, and the energy I feel when connecting to the audience is like nothing



I have experienced before. My confidence increases with every performance, and the more mistakes I make up there, the better I get at handling them, making a joke about it and moving on. Though if I had to choose, I would say I prefer the recording process, because this is where the songs first come to life. When it's just me, the producer and my instrument, I feel a special intimacy with the song. It's a moment I get to experience pure connection to my art, before I send it out into the world.

**Hari:** What do you have in store for the rest of the year? Planning any overseas tours and such?

**Cara:** I have just finished a run of UK festival performances with my band, which has taken us to Wales, Yorkshire and Brighton. While I have a couple more local gigs in store in the coming months, I will be spending a lot of time writing new material and heading to the studio. I am currently exploring taking my music in a pop direction, as I have been writing purely folk songs up until recently. 'Pretty' was the launch of this new style, and I will be working on more tracks to follow. I am also working on a way to translate these songs into a live set, which

I will be aiming to take overseas once I have a roster of songs. My other duo project, 'Prawns', has an EP coming out later this year, which will also be hitting the ground with a live tour across the UK.

**Hari:** Would you consider touring in India? What are your experiences with Indian music, if any?

**Cara:** I would absolutely jump at the chance to tour in India. This may be a cheat answer, but I had an obsession with Bollywood music in my teens, and I have recently started exploring traditional instruments, such as the Sitar, because I adore discovering new sounds and learning their history. However, I do need to be further educated in this area, and plan on doing so!

**Hari:** What can you say about your future direction in music and in an artistic sense, in detail?

**Cara:** While I plan on continuing to develop my folk and duo projects, I am currently taking a lot of joy in exploring the pop direction. Prior to the release of 'Pretty', I questioned whether I could write a catchy pop song. I just never felt as though I was "current" enough, or that my lyrics could lend themselves to being more relatable. However, the more songs I write, the more I learn that I enjoy pushing the boundaries of the pop genre, and the energy I receive from them. Therefore, I will be working on translating this to the stage, and recording more songs to add to my repertoire, which will hopefully result in an album that warrants both a UK and International tour. So, watch this space!.

# IMF

**KKM**  
KERALA ARTS &  
CRAFTS VILLAGE  
KOVALAM

Presents

In association with

 LAZIE  
INDIE

# International Indie Music Festival



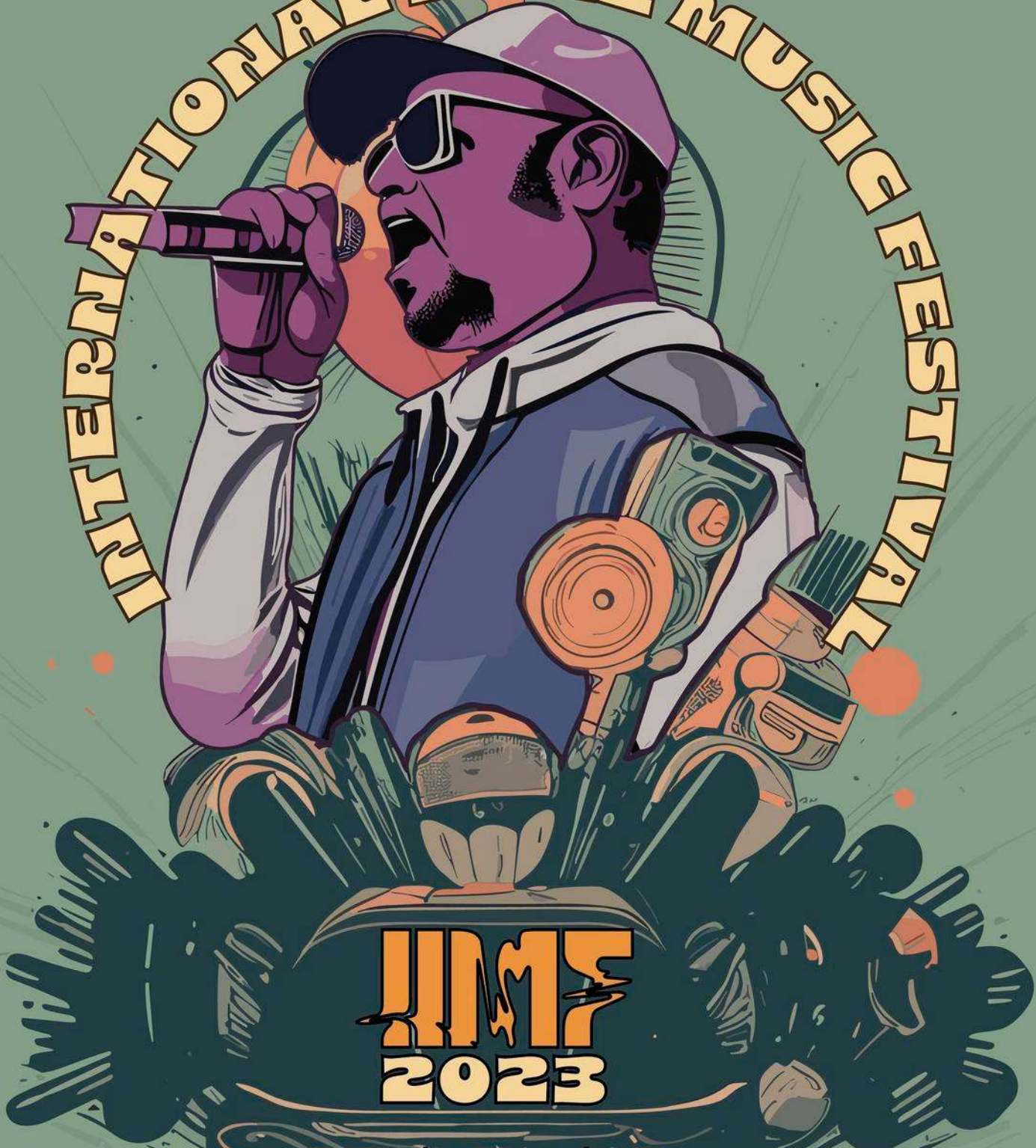
# THE JOHN ANTHONY GUITAR CONTEST

Powered by

A woman with long, wavy hair, wearing a black dress and a necklace, is singing into a vintage microphone. She is surrounded by large, glowing, fan-like structures. The background is dark with small, sparkling lights.

**INTERCONTINENTAL  
MUSIC AWARDS**

INTERNATIONAL INDIE MUSIC FESTIVAL



**IIMF**  
2023

**KADAL**

RAP



# **Kadal**

**Kadal is a Ethnic Alt Rock - fusion band from Kerala India.**

**The band burst into the Malayalam Rock music scene with its stylized rendering of traditional folk songs from Malayalam Folklore like Kaalappattu and Naagappattu etc**

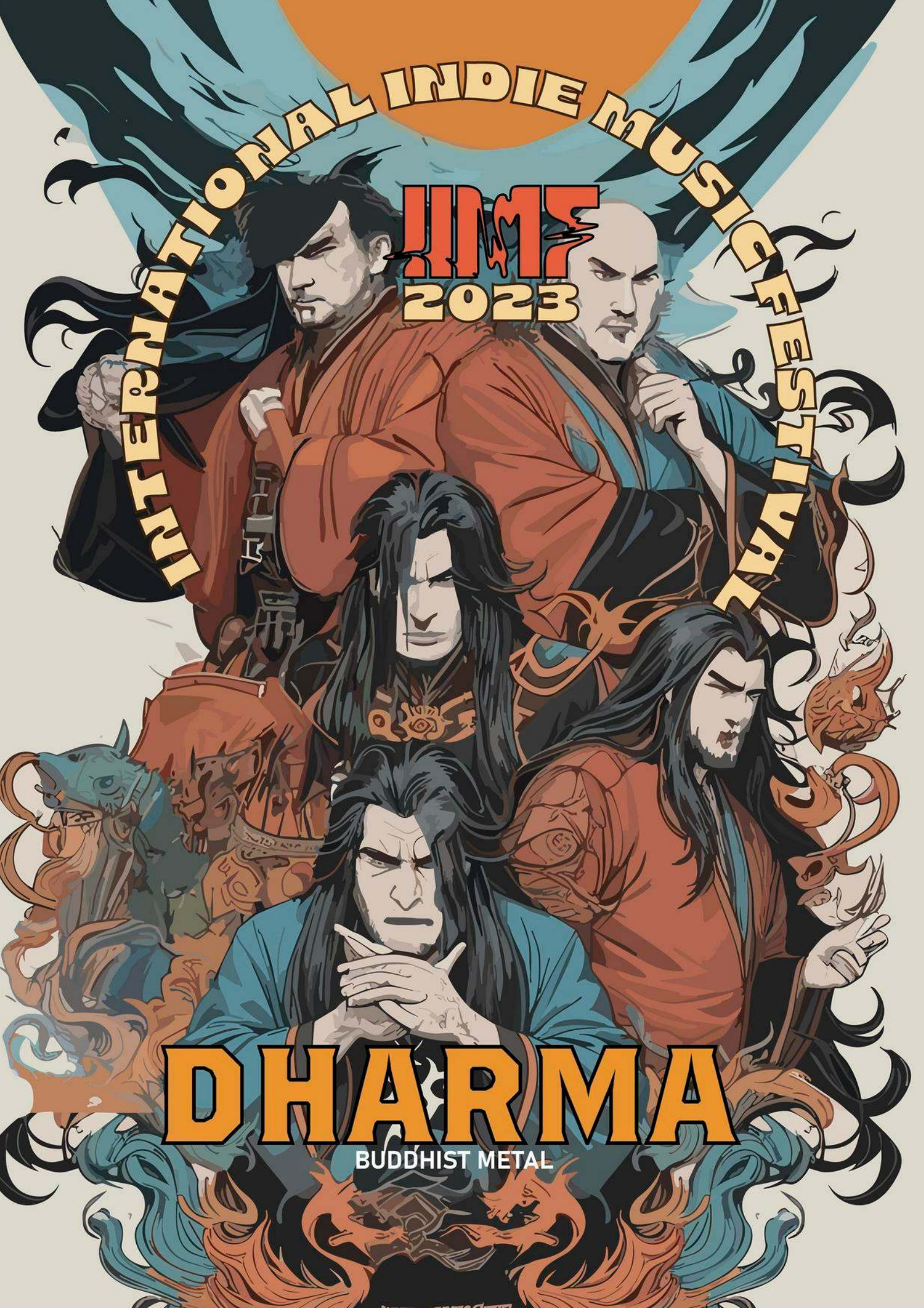
**The band made a mark in the music circuit as an authentic Independent music group with some killer performances and some well laid tracks . Kadal will be opening the 3rd and final day of the IIMF -2 on 12th Nov 2023.**

INTERNATIONAL INDIE MUSIC FESTIVAL

IIMF  
2023

DHARMA

BUDDHIST METAL



# Dharma

**Have you heard of Buddhist Metal? Well you can listen to this new powerful genre which combines Buddhist mantras to the power of Heavy Metal. Now that can be quite interesting... Dharma comes from Taiwan and has a huge following both at home and abroad as it has a very unique sound and has some great messages to pass on to the audiences. Dharma will be ending the IIMF in style on the 12th of November as the final act of the event. Don't miss them !!!**

INTERNATIONAL INDIE MUSIC FESTIVAL

IIMF  
2023



GIRISH  
& THE  
CHRONICLES

HARD ROCK

# **Girish and The Chronicles**

**Undoubtedly one of the greatest Rock acts to come out of India, The band has everything in it to be called a supergroup. They have shared stage with the best in the world like the GNR, Nazreth, Poets of the Fall, Destruction and performed world over presenting classic hard rock at its best .**

**The band is highlighted for its own music and the power & range of its singer Girish Pradhan who can be termed as the best rock vocalist India has ever had. Girish and The Chronicles will be performing at the IIMF -2 on 11th of November 2023.**

INTERNATIONAL INDIE MUSIC FESTIVAL

IIMF  
2023



**BANI  
HILL BAND**

GEORGIAN FOLK

# **Bani Hill Band**

**7 men with powerful voices, fantastic instrumental capabilities and devotion to their cultural music came together in the streets of Tblisi, Georgia. Once you get a hang of their music, you get tied to it and there is no letting go. The sheer energy of their music coming deep from the soul hooks you on to it and it will pull you towards Georgian culture and music. With members coming from different regions, both East and West Sakartvelo, Bani combines the Georgian folk songs with the whole Caucasus music and culture in their own style. Bani will be performing at the IIMF on 12th of November 2023. Don't Miss it !!!**



**LAZIE INDIE MAGAZINE**

**[www.lazieindiemagazine.com](http://www.lazieindiemagazine.com)**