

MULTI AWARD WINNER

- ✘ Songlines/WOMAD Best Newcomer of the Year
- ✘ 2x Juno Winner Best World Music Albums for
Aam Zameen: Common Ground & Beyond Boundaries
- ✘ Canadian Folk Music Award Best World Music Recording
Aam Zameen: Common Ground
- ✘ Sikh Centennial Foundation Award for
Excellence in Music
- ✘ Canadian Indie Awards nomination,
World Music Album of the Year for *Wanderlust*



Kiran Ahluwalia's New Album *sanata: stillness* 'Moments of Discovery'

'An inspired and fresh formula.' – NPR, USA

'Hers is a voice destined to enchant more than one generation.' – fRoots, UK

'A powerful woman who has a depth of character in her wonderfully pliable, expressive voice.' – The Observer, UK

'...if she carries on her journey of exploration, she has the potential to astonish us.' – Songlines, UK

Sanata : Stillness is the new album from multi-award winning Indo-Canadian singer, Kiran Ahluwalia. *Sanata* is at once contemplative and rockin', traditional and innovative; a hybrid of Indian and Pakistani grooves, Saharan blues and jazz. Says Kiran, *'When you take two styles and merge them together... then you're really developing a new hybrid genre... Those moments of discovery are nothing short of sublime, it's really the essence of everything for me.'*

Sanata features Kiran's own songs of love, life and the human spirit with sublime vocals rising and falling effortlessly through *Hayat* [life], *Qaza* [destiny], *Tamana* [desire], the experimental instrumental *Hum Dono* and the uptempo spirited *Jhoom* [sway]. After hearing *Sanata*, one is left feeling that *Taskeen* [satisfaction] is a not just a possibility but a musical certainty.

Kiran Ahluwalia has been on a musical mission from the age of seven. Born in Patna in northeast India, Kiran immersed herself in the exploration of classical Indian music and ghazals – Urdu songs focusing on the beauty, pain and suffering in love and life in a romantic and spiritual sense. Despite her family moving to Canada at a young age, Kiran has never abandoned her musical roots. After graduating from the University of Toronto,

Kiran spent over a decade studying with India's classical guru Padma Talwalkar and ghazal guru, Vithal Rao. Hard work and dedication to her musical craft won Kiran success and the ability to sing in three distinct languages – Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi.

Several Juno nominations and 2x Juno Awards later – for Best World Music Albums for *Beyond Boundaries* [2004] and *Aam Zameen - Common Ground* [2012] – have firmly placed Kiran Ahluwalia as a leading inspiration on the world music stage. *Wanderlust* won Kiran the inaugural *Songlines Music Award* for Best Newcomer in 2009.

Kiran has penned most of the songs on *Sanata* both lyrically and musically. In the opening track, *Hayat* [life], Kiran expresses her personal conflicts as an Indo-Canadian now living in New York City,

'Life drifts in its own shadow / dragging along lounging sighs, life o life / Those who speak my tongue are unevenly scattered / Still, I collect conversations, I may run into someone / I've been your refugee, life o life.'

Kiran's lyrics work on many levels. The album's title track *Sanata* explores the pain of separation from a loved one, albeit a place or a person,

'This is the deafening stillness of having left you / The certainty of breaking the knot will eventually dawn on me.'

Added to *Sanata's* mix is the deft production from jazz guitarist and Kiran's musical and life partner, Rez Abbasi [*Downbeat* magazine's No.1 Rising Star Guitarist] coupled with Kiran's inspiration from the legendary Tuareg group Tinariwen, *'For me it's important to blur the musical boundaries between my Indian background, influences from Western sounds and the things I love from the Sahara.'* *Sanata* was recorded at Toronto's Canterbury Sound studios by Jeremy Darby whose engineering credits include Alicia Keys, Sheryl Crow, Sting, Mariah Carey et al. *Sanata* is the new album in the musical evolution of Kiran Ahluwalia and what a grand evolution this is. *Sanata* will be released worldwide through ARC Music and is already available in the USA and Canada.

Asian Arts Agency is delighted to support ARC Music in the launch of Kiran Ahluwalia's album *Sanata: Stillness*.

Venue: The Nehru Centre (Cultural Wing of the High Commission of India), 8 South Audley Street, London, W1K 1HF

Date: Monday 30th March Time: 6.30pm

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