

RAVISH MOMIN'S TRIO TARANA 2010



Ravish Momin: Drums, Percussion, Voice, Composition; **Skye Steele:** Violin; **Greg Heffernan:** Cello, electronics;

Trio Tarana, formed in 2003, is led by percussionist/composer Ravish Momin, born in India, while currently residing in New York City. The trio features the unique instrumentation of violin, cello and percussion, and primarily utilizes East-Asian rhythms (including Indian, Japanese, Afghani), Middle-Eastern and North African rhythms as the foundation for a new creative musical experience; they employ compositions that seamlessly blend written material with spontaneous group interaction, and also add a hint of laptop-based electronics.

They had released a critically acclaimed debut entitled "Climbing the Banyan Tree" in 2004, on the Portugal-based CleanFeed Record Label. Of their debut CD, AllAboutJazz.com had said: *"It is fair to say that Trio Tarana is without precedent in the world of improvised music. A true synthesis of North African, South and East Asian motifs with classical organization and the immediacy of free improvisation has probably not existed prior to "Climbing the Banyan Tree."* Their follow-up CD, "Miren" (2007) was also very well-received.

The trio has performed at Jazz Lent, Maribor, Slovenia (2009), The Calgary Jazz Festival (Canada, 2009), Cultural Festival Zacatecas (Mexico, 2009), Jazz Ao Centro Festival (Coimbra, Portugal, 2008), and also toured China and the UK in 2008. They've performed at New York City's Rubin Museum of Asian Art on multiple occasions, and most notably, at the Yardbird Suite Jazz Club (Edmonton, Canada, 2009, 2007), Detroit Institute of Art (US, 2006), Mediawave Festival (Hungary, 2006), the Jazzin' Tondela (Portugal, 2005), the prestigious Smithsonian Institution's Freer Gallery (Washington, DC, 2005), the New Music Circle (St. Louis, MO, 2005), 9th Annual Asian American Jazz Festival (Chicago, IL, 2004), the Taipei Arts Festival (Taiwan, 2004), amongst other performances. They have also been recently featured in TimeOUT Magazines (London, Lisbon, HongKong and Chicago), 'Village Voice' (New York), 'Jazz.pt' (Portugal) and in 'JazzImprov' (France), Redstar Magazine (China) amongst various other domestic and international publications.

Ravish Momin (composition, percussion, voice, laptop) is the leader of the ensemble. He has toured and recorded with saxophonists Kalaparush Maurice McIntyre (AACM) (Tel Aviv Jazz Festival, Israel, EraJazzu Festival, Poland, Sons D'Hiver Festival, Paris, France, Kerava Jazz Festival, Finland, Guelph Jazz Festival, Canada, Chicago Jazz Festival, amongst others), Sabir Mateen, and Peter Epstein, guitarist Brad Shepik, bassists Wilber Morris and William Parker, Violinists Billy Bang, Jason Kao Hwang, percussionists Susie Ibarra, Kenny Wolleson & Jim Black, trumpeters Roy Campbell and Raphe Malik, and Pianist Ursel Schlicht's Ex Tempore. He has also worked with Hip-Hop artist Dalek, and also tours with the up-and-coming rock band Fulton Lights, and recorded for the CleanFeed, Delmark, NuBop, CIMP, Entropy Stereo, & BlueRegard Record Labels.

Skye Steele (Violin) has traveled to Turkey and twice to Brazil to investigate their respective violin traditions, studying, collaborating, performing and recording with local artists. Skye is active throughout New York's vibrant world-music scene performing on Western and Arabic Violin, Kemani (turkish fiddle) and Rabeca (Brazilian fiddle). In addition to his long list of regular collaborators--The Nation Beat, Trio Tarana, Anistar, Vampire Suit, the EthnoEccentric String Trio, Howard Fishman, M-LAB, the Manhattan Ragtime Orchestra, and Vince Giordano's Nighthawks-- Skye has recorded with Vanessa Carlton, Cyro Baptista, Rufus Wainwright (on the soundtrack to Scorcese's "The Aviator"), and performed with Frank London, Duncan Sheik, Alessandra Belloni, Souren Baronian, Matt Darriau, Andrew D'Angelo, Jenny Scheinman, Laura Cantrell, Butch Morris, Mat Maneri, Daniel Carter, Lukas Ligeti, Forro For All, MaracatuNY, Raquy and the Cavemen, Abu Gara, the Big Apple Circus, and the Bindlestiff Family Circus.

Greg Heffernan (cello, electronics) Greg "Cosmo D" Heffernan is a versatile cellist whose musical passions have led him to work in improvisation, jazz and electronic music. Greg is currently based out of New York City and works as a freelancer, bandleader and touring musician. Greg has recorded several albums with his band, Sauce, and one of his compositions for the band made its Carnegie Hall debut in early 2008.

In 2006 and 2007, Greg toured with the legendary saxophonist Lee Konitz. Greg has been a featured member in Konitz's Nonet, directed by award-winning saxophonist and arranger Ohad Talmor. Since forming in 2005, the Nonet has toured England, France, Italy, Croatia, Spain, Germany, Slovenia, Macedonia, and beyond. Other musicians Greg has also played with include Vijay Iyer, Fred Hersch, Alice Coltrane, Ravi Coltrane, Jack DeJohnnette, Natalie Merchant, Bill Frisell, Drew Gress, Tony Malaby, Ralph Alessi, Brad Shepik, Basya Schechter, Kenny Wolleson, Doc Severinson, Burt Bacharach, the Spring Awakening pit, vocalists Kurt Elling and Kate McGarry, singer Lucia Pulido, saxophonist/clarinetist Anat Cohen, violinist Jenny Scheinman and many others.

QUOTES:

"Fiza" adds viola player Tanya Kalmanovitch during an up-and-down chamber improv that is lively and brash. Momin has emerged as a musical illustrator and theorist on this original program that is eminently listenable, and comes highly recommended.- Michael G. Nastos (All Music Guide)

The combination of instruments is mesmerizing. - Roger Levesque (Edmonton Journal)

Percussionist/composer Momin leads his NYC band trio - with violinist Skye Steele and oud player Brandon Terzic - on the last date of their UK tour. Creating compelling, pan-global jazz that blends Indian, Japanese, Afghani and Indonesian rhythms in surprising and exciting ways, this is dazzling and dynamic music from a boundary shattering trio. (TimeOUT-London, UK)

What Momin posits here is a fresh, forward-thinking aesthetic that reaches beyond standard east-west jazzology or identikit exotica; his playing on a very non-standard kit, comprising of cajon and talking drums as well as traps, are of a man on a quest for novel musical narratives as well as novel sounds.- Kevin Le Gendre (Jazzwise UK)

Ravish Momin's Trio Tarana is not one of those cheap exploitations of sound that passes for "world/ music" being sold in New Age stores. Miren (A Longing) is an example of what happens when three dedicated and experienced musicians of like mind come together to make music. Within this framework, they each give free expression to whatever the intent has inspired in them making this one of the most interesting and exciting pieces of improvisational music I have heard in a long time.- Richard Marcus (Epic India)

The three players work from a resilient foundation of rhythm and melody that manages to sound at once Bedouin antique and dance boutique new.- Derek Taylor (Bagatellen)

Add Momin's agility and distinctive percussive accents and the outcome is a high-spirited and genuinely refreshing set, free from old-fashioned exotic affectation. Radiating through the music is a sure sense that the trio were totally committed to this project, and derived real enjoyment from it. That transmits.- Julian Cowley (The Wire-UK)

Of course, the beauty of such a trio is that one never knows where the mixing and mashing of styles is likely to start or finish."- Ken Micallef (Philadelphia Weekly)

The music Indian percussionist Ravish Momin makes is even more diverse than you'd expect. Their debut is a profound and organic fusion of Indian, Middle Eastern, and Western music -- the goal isn't to see how many different things they can cram into one package.- Peter Margasak (Chicago Reader)