

# RAVISH MOMIN

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<http://ravishmomin.com>

## Professional Summary

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Active as a professional musician and educator for over 25 years. Performed in a variety of genres ranging from Jazz, Rock, Funk, Global Music, to Improvised and Electronic Dance Music. Organized and led successful international tours for bands for over two decades. Worked as a teaching-artist with a wide age group, ranging from Grades K-12 in public schools across New York City. Recipient of multiple grants and awards, including New Music USA, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, Arts International, Arts In Education Roundtable, US Artists International, New York State Council on the Arts & Meet The Composer.

## Grants, Awards & Residencies

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Artist-in-Residence, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (2025)  
Visiting Artist Integration Project Grant at University of Michigan (2024)  
Commission for New Works at Furman University's Music Department (2022)  
New Music USA Project Grant Award (2020)  
Pioneer Works Studio Residency Program, Brooklyn, NY (2017)  
Marisco Teaching-Scholarship at Lamont School of Music, Denver University, Denver CO (2012);  
Meet The Composer Grant (for Erie Art Museum Performance) (2011)  
US Artists International Grant (National Endowment for the Arts Fund, administered by  
Mid-Atlantic Arts, for Mediawave Festival, Gyor, Hungary Performance) (2006)  
Arts International Grant for Artists in International Festivals (for Kala Ghoda Festival, Mumbai & 7th Annual East  
West Encounter, Bangalore, India) (2002)  
Music/OMI Artist Residency Program, Omi, NY (2001)

## Recent Public Performance Highlights (2000-2025)

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A Full List of Performances can be found at <https://ravishmomin.com/shows/>

**Recent Highlights include:** Guelph Jazz Festival (Canada/2025), Free Forma Impulse XV Edizione (Italy/2025), Alternative Brains Rule Festival (Cyprus/2025), Egg Center for the Performing Arts (US/ 2025), Big Ears Festival (US/2024), Words, Beats & Life Festival - Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (US/2024), Positive Futures Festival (Austria/2023), LeGuessWho? Festival (Netherlands//2023), Slingshot Festival (US/2022), Festival Congedi (Italy/2022), Casa Del Lago (Mexico/2022), Lincoln Center Outdoors Festival (NYC/2021)

## Publications (*primary author*)

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### I Care If You Listen (2025)

Commissioned to write an Essay for the “Money Matters” series, entitled “*A Sustainable DIY Touring Model*”  
<https://icareifyoulisten.com/2025/09/a-sustainable-diy-hybrid-touring-model/>

# Live Performance Projects

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## Producer/Solo Artist

09/2020 to Current

### Sunken Cages

- Signed in 2020 to [OnTheCorner Records](#) (UK) to produce a record influenced by global music traditions. Working under the moniker Sunken Cages to layer live-loops and manipulate them in real-time in order to blur the lines between composition and improvisation. While rooted in Indian folk and Black Music traditions, this project is also influenced by the street sounds of underground dance music from South Africa, Angola, Egypt and beyond. Released singles/remixes starting in September 2020 and a follow-up full-length to be released in the summer of 2024.

## Band Leader

09/2017 to Current

### Turning Jewels Into Water (TRUE Records & FPE Records)

- Turning Jewels Into Water is a new beat-and-ritual-based project in collaboration with Haitian percussionist/experimental electronic artist Val Jeanty. Of their music, IndieRocks wrote, "Ghostly voices, dislocated *beats* and a digital amalgam flow within their songs along with mutant dubs, polyrhythmic percussions and interferences produced by synthesizers and futuristic turntables." Wrote new music, published recordings with [FPE Records](#), and booked European and US tours.

## Leader

7//2021 to Current

### Sunken Cages x Ishita Mili

- The duo of percussionist/electronic musician Ravish Momin (a/k/a Sunken Cages) and dancer Ishita Mili seeks to blend ancient traditions with contemporary influences. Their collaboration weaves narratives of forgotten histories, resistance and healing rituals. They draw on street-rhythms from Mumbai to Cairo, and dance styles that blend traditional Indian Classical (Bharatnatyam) and tribal styles (Chhau) with Hip-Hop and beyond.

## Co-Leader

06/2022 to Current

### Sunken Cages x dragonchild (FPE Records)

- Conceived by Ethio-American saxophonist D.A. Mekonnen – co-founder/leader of the widely celebrated Debo Band – the solo project dragonchild is a culmination of decades of musical experimentation, embodied spiritual practice, and critical thinking. Sunken Cages is the moniker of Indian-born drummer/electronic music producer Ravish Momin, who has worked with a wide array of musicians, from pop-star Shakira to legendary Jazz saxophonist Kalaparusha Maurice McIntyre (of the AACM), in addition to leading his own innovative global groups Tarana and Turning Jewels Into Water (with Val Jeanty). Sunken Cages plays electronic and acoustic drums, triggers melodies and textures, and generates loops in real-time, while dragonchild shifts between saxophones and electronics. Together, they create an exciting new global music that draws from their respective cultural backgrounds as well as contemporary electronic music.

## Co-Leader

10/2023 to Current

### Zelzeleh (Sunken Cages x Faraway Ghost) (Akuphone Records)

- Iranian multi-instrumentalist Kamyar Arsani and Indian-born drummer/electronic music producer Sunken Cages create their own brand of digital folk music that draws on Sufi mysticism, traditional Persian Music, street rhythms from Mumbai and contemporary electronic music at once. Momin accompanies Arsani's vocals and daf (frame-drum) with a masterful blend of electronic and acoustic percussion, including live-looping via his unique drum-loop performance system. Signed to Akuphone Records in 2024.

## Collaborations

2000 to Current

### Various

Toured, performed and recorded with a wide range of musicians including pop-star Shakira, and Jazz saxophonist Kalaparusha (AACM.)

Undertook remixes for Depeche Mode, Batida (Portugal), Babani Sound System (Mauritius),

Collaborated with producers MPeach (Venezuela), Eat MyButterfly (Reunion Island), Makossiri (Kenya), Laughing Ears (China), Debmaster (France), Kush Arora (US), Krithi (US), PlayPlay (US), Rani Jambak (Indonesia), Slikback (Kenya), Yunis (Egypt), Baba Sy (Senegal/Spain), Boogzbrown (Reunion Island), Phelimuncasi (South Africa), Pambulo (Mexico)

Collaborated with dancers Ishita Mili, Ivvy, Amirah Sackett.

### **Band Leader**

#### **Tarana**

02/2003 to 11/2017

Tarana was a shape-shifting band whose past lineups included oud, violin, viola, cello and bass. The final lineup featured Rick Parker (trombone/synth) and blurred the boundaries between the electronic and the acoustic. Drawing on a vast array of influences ranging from Jazz to Bollywood and utilizing digital and analog electronics, the duo layered live loops, harmonies, textures, and lush ambience on top of tight-knit acoustic instruments to create a symphonic sound that explores rhythms from across the world.

- Wrote music for Quartet, Trio and Duo versions of the band
- Recorded for CleanFeed, NotTwo, Plasma Torus & Wondermachine Records
- Toured all over the US, Canada, Mexico, Europe and Asia
- Awarded Marsico Fellowship for Residency at Lamont School of Music, University of Denver, CO
- Garnered press in publications ranging from Chicago Reader, Tiny Mix Tapes, Wire UK, FACT mag, DCist & TimeOUT Hong Kong amongst other publications.

### **Music Curator**

#### **Various**

Curated genre-defying line-ups at the following events:

- Rubin Museum's Sound Exhibit, entitled "Sound is Divine" (with Roshni Samlal/Kane Mathis, Muyassar Kurdi, Evan Ziporyn/Christine Southworth) [New York City, 2017]
- Out To See Festival, South Street Seaport, New York City (with Val-Inc, FKWRK, Selecta7, BKGD Audio & Tarana) [ New York City, 2016]

## **Educational Activities**

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### **Teaching Artist**

04/2003 to Current

#### **Brooklyn Arts Council, Arts Connection, Center For Arts Education, Midori & Friends, Arts For Kids, Arts Horizons – NY + NJ**

Works as a Teaching-Artist in the New York City Metro area for various Arts Education organizations.

- Active on rosters for Brooklyn Arts Council, Arts For Kids and Arts Horizons
- Taught subjects including Digital Music Production, Early Childhood Music, Snare Drumming, Mid-East/West African Percussion, Electronic Beat Production, and American Music History
- Taught grades K-12
- Designed and implemented a Music-Math interdisciplinary curriculum for 6th graders

## **Workshops/Talks/Masterclasses/Residencies**

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### **Visiting Artist**

10/2008 to Current

#### **Colleges & Universities Worldwide**

Conducts workshop and masterclasses on the "Intersection of Music-Technology, Improvisation and Global Rhythms"

- Workshop at Salisbury University, MD (2025)
- Talk at Bard College, NY (2025)

- Masterclass at University of Pittsburgh, PA (2024)
- Masterclass at American University (2024)
- Week-long Residency at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2024)
- Masterclass at UCSD (2023)
- Three Day Residency at University of Georgia, Athens, GA (2023)
- Masterclass at UNC, Chapel Hill (2023)
- Week-long Residency at Furman University, Greenville, SC (2021)
- Masterclass at Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA (2020)
- Masterclass at Carnegie Mellon University/IDEATE, Pittsburgh, PA (2019)
- Day-long Residency at Champlain College, Burlington, VT (2018)
- Two Day Residency at Bennington College, VT (2018)
- Masterclass at The New School, New York, NY (2018)
- Masterclass at LaSalle College, Singapore (2017)
- Workshop at Sjuman School of Music, Jakarta, Indonesia (2017)
- Workshop at American University, DC (2016)
- Week-long Residency at Universidad Anahuac, Mexico (2015)
- Workshop at Limestone College, Gaffney, SC (2014)
- Masterclass at North West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa (2014)
- Workshop at CESFOR (Centro Studi e Formazione), Bolzano, Italy (2013)
- Week-long Residency at CMMAS (Center for Music & Sound), Morelia, Mexico (2012)
- Week-long Residency at Lamont School of Music/University of Denver, CO (2012)
- Week-long Residency at Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA (2011)
- Masterclass at Northwestern University, Chicago, University of Northern Colorado (2011)
- Masterclass at Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City, MX (2010)
- Masterclass at Concordia College, Montreal, Canada,
- Masterclass at Capital Conservatory, Columbus OH (2010)
- Masterclass at University of Alberta, Edmonton Campus (2008)
- Masterclass at Red Deer College, Alberta, Canada (2008)

## Musical Background

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Began learning North Indian Classical percussion under the tutelage of Pandit Shejwal at the age of 12 in India. Continued tabla studies with Jim Dispirito (student of Ustad Zakir Hussain) and Misha Masud (disciple of Pt. Taranth Rao) in the US.

Private drumset instruction with master-drummers Ian Froman, Bob Moses and Andrew Cyrille

## Education

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**Bachelor of Science:** Civil Engineering  
**Carnegie Mellon University - Pittsburgh, PA**

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## Affiliations

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- Member, Local 802, American Federation of Musicians, [2012 to Current]
- Board Member, New Music and Sound Summit (NMASS), Austin, TX