

TAMBURA RASA - FACT SHEET

Tambura Rasa are:

Ivan Tucakov on Guitar and Vocals
Elyse Jacobson on Violin
Joseph 'Pepe' Danza on Multi-Percussion
Mike Michalkow / Trevor Grant on Drums
John Bews on Bass

Karen Pitkethly - Flamenco dancing
Leah - Belly Dancing

Musical Style:

A unique blend of lively, dance-driven world fusion music that mixes elements of Afro-Latin, Balkan, Flamenco, Middle Eastern, Indian, Gypsy and many other musical forms.

Home Base: Vancouver, BC

Discography:

"Kamanala" (2008)

Tambura Rasa's third album Kamanala of global rhythms goes on culture crossing adventures that bridge the distance between Spanish Flamenco, Balkan Gypsy and Middle Eastern Baladii rhythms. Kamanala is a Sanskrit word that means 'fire of love', and the disc is abundant in passionate performances.

Flamenco Tango and Middle Eastern Fusion features Flamenco dancer Karen Pitkethly and Belly Dancer Leah; World renowned Anupam Shobhakar on Sarod complements with a Classical Indian Feel, Master Percussionist and multi-instrumentalist Joseph 'Pepe' Danza contributes thought the full CD, together with the full Tambura Rasa ensemble.

'Viaje' (2006)

Viaje is Spanish for "Journey"; a voyage through a rich blend of musical styles including Flamenco, Balkan, Ghazal, Tango, and Persian. Ten tracks transport the listener off the beaten trail through upbeat gypsy fairs and introspective Asian soundscapes. Besides significant instrumentation provided by Tarun Naray on tablas, Suzka on violin and Mike Michalkow on percussion, the CD features guests such as Aditya Verma on sarod, Brian Poulsen on solo guitar, flamenco singer David Sorroche and Doug Schmidt on bandoneon.

'Sunrise on a New World' (2004)

This CD features band's original sounds, including influences from Middle East, Africa and China. Catch the electronic mix of the song Cinnabar on the European Lounge Compilation 'Café del Mar Vol. 13' (2006). Special guests include Aboubacar Camara from Doundounba, Victor Chorobik, Neeraja Dange and many more.

Press:

"In the midst of a lot of gimmicky fusion, Tambura Rasa stands out as a group that has formed a worthwhile synthesis of music from many cultures."

Rambles Magazine

"A cut above typical flamenco jazz. This has spark, skill and great production."

The Province Newspaper

"The skill level of the performance ensemble is quite high, so world guitar fans should almost consider this a must-have. Highly recommended."

Guitar Nine Records

"More than just world music, this is positively global in its reach with flamenco and Middle-Eastern music fusing with Balkan, gypsy and Afro-Latin, all performed with great skill and verve"

J.P.M. The Province

Musicians on the CD "Sunrise on a New World" (2004):

Ivan Tucakov (eevan tutsakov) - Guitar, Vocals; Tarun Nayar - Tabla Thomas Tumbach - Violin; Guest Musicians: Aboubacar Camara - Vocals; Neeraja Dange - Vocals; Victor Chorobik - Duduk, Tibetan bamboo Flute; Christopher Suen - Xiao, Diza; Chris Denis - Percussion

Musicians on the CD "Viaje" (2006):

Ivan Tucakov - Guitar and Voice; Suzka - Violin; David Spidel - Bass; Mike Michalkow - percussion; Guest Musicians: Brian Poulsen - Guitar; Aditya Verma - Sarod; Victor Chorobik - Duduk; Tenor Flute; Christopher Suen - Guzheng; Ali Sadjadi - Oud, Tar; Doug Schmidt - Bandoneon; David Sorroche - Flamenco Vocals

Musicians on the CD "Kamanala" (2008):

Ivan Tucakov - Guitar, Vocals; Michael Fraser - Violin; John Bews - Bass, Mike Michalkow and Trevor Grant - drums, Master Percussionist and multi-instrumentalist Joseph 'Pepe' Danza, Karen Pitkethly and Belly Dancer Leah - dancing and percussion; Guest Musicians: World Renowned Anupam Shobhakar on Sarod, R&B fusion with Chin Injeti.

Interesting facts:

- First CD "Sunrise on a New World" released in 2004. Second CD "Viaje" released in 2006.
- Ivan Tucakov's electronic mix of the song Cinanbar is included in the Café del Mar Vol. 13 Compilation CD (2006).
- Master Percussionist and multi-instrumentalist Joseph 'Pepe' Danza collaborates and performs with Tambura Rasa on a regular basis.
- The CD 'Viaje' features many world music artists, such as the acclaimed flamenco singer David Sorroche, Aditya Verma on sarod, Brian Poulsen on guitar and Victor Chorobik on the flutes.
- The self-produced video for the song Nada aired on national channels such as Much More Music, Bravo and ChannelM and reached top 20 on Canadian world music charts.
- Tambura Rasa has been playing sold out shows in Vancouver, throughout BC and at festivals across Canada. In March 2006 they opened up for a renowned guitar duo Strunz and Farah.

Background info:

- The lyrics in the songs are in a variety of languages (Spanish, Turkish, Serbian, Sousou, French, Hawaiian and Portuguese) and thus they further enhance Tambura Rasa's cultural diversity.
- Tucakov grew up in Turkey and in Serbia, the crossroads of Eastern and Western cultures. Throughout the years he also traveled to Spain, Portugal, France, Mexico, Peru and throughout Canada and United States in search for new inspirations.
- Before forming Tambura Rasa, Ivan collaborated with Tarun Nayar for years. Their musical relationship had initially been a duo setting, merging Tarun's Indian Classical Music knowledge with Ivan's Balkan and Iberian Music influences.