

SWING TO THE MELODIES OF JAZZ

Ahead of International Jazz Day (April 30), jazz bands aim to create awareness about the genre through an evening of music



Sunshine Orchestra Brass Ensemble from Chennai



Suvankar Ghosh Trio

Aayushi Parekh

aayushi.parekh@partner.htdigital.in

International Jazz Day is just around the corner and what's a better way to celebrate the day than by listening to some of the finest jazz artistes.

Bringing together seven ensembles and bands, Bangalore School of Music is hosting its annual event to commemorate International Jazz Day on its eve. This year, the event will host Sunshine Orchestra Brass Ensemble from the AR Rahman Foundation in Chennai for the first time as well.

Jagadeesh MR, head of jazz and contemporary department at the school, says, "We've been organising this event since 2011. The motive has always been the same — to promote the genre and encourage jazz artistes. The history of jazz is linked to freedom and the power to express through music. This event is free for all to attend. At the event, you'll find various forms of jazz being played, from standard to gypsy jazz and more."

Lisa Sarasini, conductor of Sunshine Orchestra Brass Ensemble, shares, "The ensemble will be playing four pieces at the event which will be combined into one. It's



INTERNATIONAL
JAZZ
DAY
30 April

ILLUSTRATION:
SHUTTERSTOCK

going to be super exciting. Our ensemble has never been in a space with so many other jazz artistes. So, we're all looking forward to that."

Sarasini, who is from the UK, believes that events like these have their own importance. "I've been [living] in India for seven years and I've realised that jazz is not as accessible here as it is in the West. I'm glad that the entry is free at the event."

Many Bengaluru-based artistes will also be seen

Catch It Live

What: Take Seven

Where: Bangalore International Centre, 7, 4th Main Road, Stage 2, Domlur

When: April 29

Timing: 2pm to 9pm

Price: Free

Nearest Metro Station: Indiranagar on the Purple Line

performing on Saturday. Suvankar Ghosh, a guitarist in the Suvankar Ghosh Trio tells us, "We'll be playing standard jazz, which involves improvising traditional jazz tunes. According to me, this day is not just about playing or practising jazz. This day is about generating awareness about the genre. We've been doing our part by hosting Cafe Jazz every month with another ensemble, Moon Arra, in the city — where we invite all kinds of jazz artistes to come and jam out."

Speaking about the jazz culture in the country, Gerard Machado, a performer at the event, shares, "The day is meant to create awareness about this genre, which is a representation of freedom and expression. There is quite a knowledgeable audience in Bengaluru, but there aren't enough venues or opportunities created for jazz artistes to push them to

perform regularly."

For Joey Sharma, a performer at the event, the jazz industry in Bengaluru is yet to reach a stage of popularity. "It's somewhere in the middle. The city has a number of opportunities to offer. However, jazz has a very niche audience due to its complexities. So far, I have noticed that the older generation enjoys it more than the younger ones," Sharma wraps up.



Gerard Machado



BSM Contemporary Students' Ensemble