

Ramesh Shotham - Madras Special -

Ramesh Shotham:	drums, percussion, voice
Sandhya Sanjana:	vocal
Zoltan Lantos:	violins
Christian Zürner:	e-bass

Ramesh Shotham was born in Madras, South India. He began his career as a drummer in a rock band that performed all over the Indian subcontinent, co-leading a group called **Human Bondage**. During the mid-seventies, he returned to Madras to study the Taval, a traditional Temple music drum, - played all over South India and Sri Lanka.

Later, he studied the other classical percussion instruments, like Ghatam, Mridangam, Kanjira and Morsing at the **Karnataka College of Percussion** under Professor **T.A.S. Mani**.

In 1980 Shotham came with the Indo-Jazz Fusion- group **Sangam** to participate in various European festivals. Since then Shotham works and lives in Europe and is recognized as one of the most successful percussionists around.

He has worked not only with leading **European** and **American** Jazz and Rock musicians, but also with artistes from **Africa, Australia, China, Korea and several Arabic countries**.

During the last 15 years, Shotham has recorded over **80 LPs and CDs** and has worked for all the leading TV and Radio stations in Germany and Europe.

In 1984 he was invited as artist-in-residence at the **Iwalewa Haus**, University of Bayreuth. In 1986 he was guest teacher at the **Conservatorium in Rotterdam**. He has also conducted workshops and seminars in various cities.

Ramesh Shotham has performed at various international festivals. To mention a few: **Berlin Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival, Festival of Perth, Buk Festival in South Korea, Montreal Jazz Festival, Jazz Yatra Festival in India and Festival of India in Australia and China, Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, ...**

Shotham also went on three tours organized by the Goethe-Institut: 1990 to the former Yugoslavia, Hungary and Bulgaria; 1992 to France, Spain and Portugal; 1993 to India.

Shotham's Work with musicians such as **Carla Bley**, **Chris Hinze**, **Steve Coleman**, **Steve Swallow**, **Jonas Hellborg**, **Charlie Mariano** and a host of others is well documented.

He also founded his own formations like **Bhavani** and **Madras Special**. These concepts were used to feature Shotham's own compositions.

During the last few years Shotham has been touring with **Sigi Schwab's Percussion Project** regularly. He was invited during the 1997 Music Triennale in Cologne to perform with the **Carla Bley Big Band**. Early 1998 involved work with **Steve Coleman** in India. Shotham recently appeared in **Heartbeat of the Continents**, a film by Manfred Waffender featuring different styles of drumming, produced by **arte** and the **ZDF**. Along with **Rabih Abou-Kahlil** and **Zoltan Lantos**, he recorded a documentary film for **Euroarts** to demonstrate the influences of World music on Jazz.

Recent activities included a trip to **Cuba** to play at the Jazz festival with **Steve Coleman**, a summer tour with **Carla Bley's Escalator over the hill Project** and an invitation to a **World-Music-Festival in Tunisia** with the well known Oud player **Mohammed Zinelabidin**.

Ramesh Shotham has been commissioned by the **WDR** to travel to India with his group **Madras Special** in early 1999 to perform and record new music.

Madras Special

The musical concept is based on a quartet format with very special guest musicians, with whom Ramesh Shotham shares a creative friendship since many years.

Zoltan Lantos, the Hungarian violinist who spent several years in India plays a crucial role in the band. His virtuosity and warm sounds coupled with his knowledge of Indian ragas is just right for this music.

Christian Zürner, started playing bass in the age of 14. His Long-standing cooperation with the guitarist Rainer Hartmann is documented in the Duo-CD "Miniaturen" (2001).

Sandhya Sanjana, the Indian singer lives in Amsterdam and is one of the few singers, who can bridge pop and Indian classical music.

Mehr Infos auch unter: www.shotham.de