

THE · JAMES · ASHER · GROUP



The James Asher Group - live in New Delhi

An invitation in 2008 to perform at a steel magnate's wedding in Delhi provided an opportunity for worldbeat producer James Asher to bring together a world class lineup. Having had material released in India for over 10 years, this provided the perfect occasion for presenting this material live. As his vocal collaborator on the album *Bravado Masala*, carnatic singer Mahesh Vinayakram offered a formidable frontman for the live band, bringing with him two regular collaborators, the extraordinary Navin Chandar on flutes and Prasad Karambelkar on tabla.

Mahesh and Navin have enjoyed increasing attention especially with *The Laya Project* ("A winning combination of the exotic and the familiar - strikingly beautiful" fRoots). Mahesh can also be heard on AR Rahman's Oscar winning score to the film *Slumdog Millionaire* and Navin on the soundtrack album of the same.



Mahesh Vinayakram & Navin Chandar

Completing the band are some of the UK's top folk/roots musicians: multi-instrumentalist Tom Fairbairn on electric violin and keyboards, guitarist Brian Heywood and jazz bassist Paul Francis.



Paul Francis, Tom Fairbairn, Brian Heywood & James Asher

In addition to playing drums with the band, James is excited by how the live performance situation allows him to reinterpret previous work, drawing on content from his Indo-fusion albums. These include: the award winning *Tigers of the Raj* (1998), DJ remix album *Kali Thunder* (2001) and *Drums on Fire* (2002) featuring Sivamani.



Members of the group with TV chef Manju Malhi

The James Asher Group has recently toured Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Jaipur and on Indian TV have confirmed the musical success of this collaboration and its strong public appeal.

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