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India crisis forces Sangat Chamber Music Festival to relocate

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INDIA CRISIS FORCES CONCERTS TO MOVE – FESTIVAL RELOCATES TO STOCKHOLM

IN JUST TWO WEEKS, THE 2008 SANGAT CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL WILL RELOCATE FROM MUMBAI TO STOCKHOLM'S KONSERTHUSET

THE FESTIVAL'S THREE CONCERTS ON DECEMBER 15, 17, AND 18 WILL BENEFIT THE MEHLI MEHTA MUSIC FOUNDATION, BRINGING CLASSICAL MUSIC TO INDIAN CHILDREN, THANKS TO PARTICIPATING MUSICIANS ALL DONATING THEIR SERVICES

Originally planned for December in Mumbai, the 13th annual Sangat Chamber Music Festival – India's premier festival of its kind – has been moved to Stockholm's Konserthuset. "Given the current situation in Mumbai, we obviously could not have our usual season of concerts there this month," said Harvey de Souza, the festival's Co-Artistic Director. "When I called to inform the musicians, I was overwhelmed by their response: every one of them insisted that we try to find an alternative venue – they felt that now of all times we couldn't give in to terrorists. I spoke with my friend, the conductor Alan Gilbert, about the situation, and he suggested trying to re-create the festival in Stockholm. We are frankly stunned at the level of support and enthusiasm we have found for this idea, and are very happy to bring our world-class musicians to Stockholm for this very special event."

Alan Gilbert commented, "I have always been impressed by the work the Mehli Mehta Foundation has done in bringing classical music and educational initiatives to the people of India. The Sangat Chamber Music Festival is perhaps the most visible and international of these efforts, but no less important are the wonderful programs the Foundation has undertaken that have worked with Indian children, including homeless kids and orphans, teaching them instruments, music ensembles, and singing. I am proud to be able to help this worthy cause, and am sure that the music-making will be a joy to hear, now, more than ever, in the face of the horrendous acts of terrorism Mumbai has suffered."

Stefan Forsberg, the Executive Director of the Konserthuset added, "When Alan informed me about the situation concerning Sangat's concerts in Mumbai, I didn't hesitate in offering to help in any way we could. Luckily, the magnificent Grönwald

Hall was available on three nights for their use, and we couldn't be more proud and honored to be presenting these wonderful musicians in such a good cause."

Concerts to feature chamber masterpieces performed by world-class artists

Virtually all of the musicians originally scheduled to go to Mumbai agreed to come and perform in Stockholm, and all of them will perform without fee. These musicians include soloists, prominent chamber musicians, and top instrumentalists from major orchestras in Europe and the United States. Sponsors have been found to cover travel and lodging costs, and all proceeds from the concerts will go to the Mehli Mehta Music Foundation. The programs will feature some of the greatest works in the string repertoire, including Mendelssohn's Octet, Schubert's C-major String Quintet, and Mozart's "Hoffmeister" String Quartet.

About the Mehli Mehta Music Foundation and the Sangat Chamber Music Festival

The Mehli Mehta Music Foundation was founded in 1995 to honor the memory of Mehli Mehta, a violinist, conductor, and founding member of the Bombay String Quartet. He was the first to start a series of chamber music concerts in Mumbai (or Bombay, as it was then known). He was the father of Zubin and Zarin Mehta, who are both patrons of the foundation.

This charitable foundation seeks to continue his legacy, by bringing western classical music to Mumbai. It provides musical education for children from all backgrounds, including orphans and the homeless. The foundation has brought teachers from abroad to work intensively with the students. The Sangat Chamber Music Festival is one of the foundation's annual events, bringing musicians from all over the world to play concerts, and give lessons and master classes. The foundation has also brought numerous ensembles to perform in Mumbai, including the New York, Vienna, Israel, and Munich Philharmonic Orchestras.

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13th Annual Sangat Chamber Music Festival, 2008

December 15 at 7:30 pm, Grönwald Hall, Stockholm Konserthuset

Brahms: String Sextet No. 2 in G major, Op. 36

Shostakovich: Prelude and Scherzo (two pieces for string octet), Op. 11

Mendelssohn: Octet in E-flat major, Op. 20

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December 17 at 7:30 pm, Grünewald Hall, Stockholm Konserthuset

Mozart: String Quartet No. 20, K. 499, "Hoffmeister"

Schnittke: String Trio

Dvorák: String Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 97

December 18 at 7:30 pm, Grünewald Hall, Stockholm Konserthuset

Borodin: String Sextet in D minor

Mozart: String Quintet in G minor, K. 516

Schubert: String Quintet in C major, D. 956

Artists:

Violin:

Harvey de Souza

Jennifer Gilbert

Ulrich Poschner

Emi Resnick

Viola:

Garfield Jackson

Carla Maria Rodrigues

Robert Smissen

Alan Gilbert

Cello:

Eric Kim

Johannes Moser

Kajsa William-Olsson

www.konserthuset.se