

As partners on stage and off stage, Shubhendra and Saskia Rao's collaborative work has many facets. Their jugalbandi 'East Marries West' has been featured across the world. **New York Times** described the music as 'movingly meditative'. *Together, they carry Indian music towards new horizons with a strong belief in the unifying power of music.* Listeners are spellbound by the virtuosity of the duo their effortless musical communication and improvisation as well as the sublime music (excerpts from reviews)

**Composers :** They composed music for various ensembles, dance, film. 'I can see the music and hear the dance' a critic wrote about Yatra, a ballet written with the accompaniment of sitar and Indian cello. They have written original compositions for string quartet, choirs and various ensembles across the world and are known for their unique style of music that is 'traditional and avant garde' at the same time. They have had the great honour to compose music for Padma Vibhushan Dr Sonal Mansingh's dance productions. Their composition 'Ekta' to honour German Chancellor Angela Merkel's visit to India in 2015 and performed for PM Modi and Angela Merkel, was described as 'exemplifying the very best in the musical traditions of the East & West'.

**Music educators:** To ensure that the next generation get access to Indian classical music in a way that meets their educational requirements, they created India's first complete music curriculum with extensive resources for all age groups and levels. Over 35000 children have benefitted from 'Sangeet4All' and the program has drawn attention from educationalists and artists across the world. They are also a part of the international 'Creative youth and child development' initiated by the Massachusetts Arts Council and their Sangeet4All Music Curriculum has been praised and featured all over the world.

**Cultural entrepreneurs and outreach:** The ministry of culture and the Indian council of cultural relations support the 'Shubhendra and Saskia Rao Foundation' efforts to bring classical Indian music to diverse audiences through concerts, outreach programs, seminars and more. In 2020 alone, the foundation organized the concert series 'Unlock the Music' (October 2020-March 2021) , an e-Baithak with live and virtual audience, 'Music for Hope' (May 2020), a fund raiser for health workers in India, 'Aou Sangeet Banao' a music competition for children between 4 and 14.

**From Duet to Trio:** They made their public family debut with their son Ishaan Leonard Rao when he was 13 years old in New York at the prestigious Chhandyan festival. Ishaan is a pianist who is making a name for himself in classical music of the West and India, and as a composer. With his unique background, his repertoire bridges the East with the West and the Classical with the Modern.

The family always looks for ways to engage with audiences, students and volunteers to help them to amplify their efforts. Sangeet4All is now available in the US as well in collaboration with the IAA, Indo-American Association, of Houston.



*Would you like to teach music? Write to us. Ishaan also performs in the school program 'Music for children by children'. Find him on [YouTube](#)*