



chicago**sinfonietta**  
MUSIC EXCELLENCE DIVERSITY

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**CHICAGO SINFONIETTA'S GLOBAL DANCE PARTY FEATURES  
BHANGRA DJ & DRUMMER WITH ORCHESTRA**

**Two of the nation's top young conductors  
perform music from their cultural heritages.**

Wentz Concert Hall, Naperville, March 22  
Symphony Center, Chicago, March 24

**CHICAGO** (February 12, 2014) – Symphonic and electronic music converge when the Chicago Sinfonietta presents two concerts featuring Bhangra-inspired DJ Rekha with Dave Sharma performing alongside her on traditional Indian percussion instruments. Two of the nation's top young conductors, Alexandra Arrieche and Joseph Young, will be sharing the podium to lead the orchestra in the electronic works, along with music from their own cultural heritages: Brazilian and African-American.

These concerts takes a fresh, whimsical approach to disparate musical corners of the globe and is presented in two performances only, Saturday, March 22 at 8 pm at Wentz Concert Hall of North Central College in Naperville (171 E. Chicago Avenue) and Monday, March 24 at 7:30 pm at Orchestra Hall of Symphony Center in downtown Chicago (220 S. Michigan Avenue).

Brazilian-born conductor Alexandra Arrieche opens the concert with two works from her South-American roots, Piazzolla's *Fuga y Misterio* and Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 2*. Together, these two works provide an opportunity for her and the orchestra to shine before DJ Rekha and Mr. Sharma join them onstage.

The first piece to incorporate an electronic element is *Pyar Baile*, which was originally produced by DJ Rekha and Dave Sharma with recorded vocals by Meetu Chilana and Zuzuka Poderosa. Sharma, Rekha's producing partner and percussionist, will be performing on such traditional Indian instruments as the bhangra dhol, dholak, tabla, and udu. The Sinfonietta commissioned a new orchestra arrangement to compliment the original electronic music by Sam Shoup.

The final work of the evening, *Rekha's Dance Party*, is a true collaboration that includes improvisation and creative sectioning of the orchestra to provide different voices that converse throughout the piece, which will be led by both conductors on stage.

Sharma explains, "The dance mix is a compilation of some of our tracks from the past few years. Sam [Shoup, the arranger] and I have emailed back and forth to discuss ideas about how to expand the sonic palette of our pieces by using the full complement of the orchestra. With such strong electronic sounds, we can go to more extremes in the frequency range than the orchestra can, but the orchestra's got much more texture than we generally have in our energy-driven tunes, so this should be an interesting collaboration."

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The second half of the concert features American conductor, Joseph Young, newly appointed assistant conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, performing a mixed repertoire, including two works by Jonathan Bailey Holland: *The Party Starter* and *Motor City Dance Mix*. DJ Rekha will improvise on *The Party Starter* to add her own flavor to the dance-influenced work. Young said, "I recently came across Jonathan Bailey Holland's music and enjoyed the smooth yet rhythmic drive he produced."

Ernő Dohnányi's *Symphonic Minutes* will also feature the orchestra on the second half with its light, amiable sounds in five movements with colorful orchestration and Hungarian roots. Young explained his selection of this work by saying, "Dohnányi is a composer we don't hear from often and I thought it was a perfect choice for this orchestra that is committed to unique experiences."

### **Tickets**

Single tickets range from \$42-\$54 for the concert at Wentz Concert Hall and \$15-\$54 for the concert at Symphony Center, with special \$10 pricing available for students at both locations. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Chicago Sinfonietta at 312-236-3681 ext. 2 or online at [www.chicagosinfonietta.org](http://www.chicagosinfonietta.org).

### **About the Guest Artists**

Brazilian-born conductor **Alexandra Arrieche** has showcased her talents on an international level by conducting the North Czech Philharmonic Teplice, the Minas Gerais Philharmonic, the Londrina Symphony Orchestra, the Brazilian Youth Symphony and the São Paulo Orchestra. In addition to these groups, she has also worked with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Colorado Symphony, the Bard Conservatory Orchestra and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Showing promise in her early studies as a pianist and vocalist, Arrieche won the University of São Paulo Orchestra 2007 conducting competition and became the assistant conductor of one of Brazil's finest orchestras, a position that she held until 2010 when she came to the United States. In 2010, she was offered a place in Maestro Harold Farberman's conducting master class and a scholarship to Bard College. In 2011, Arrieche won the Taki Concordia Conducting Fellowship founded by Marin Alsop. Maestra Alsop established the Taki Concordia Conducting Fellowship in 2002 with the mission "to promote, present, and encourage talented women conductors at the beginning of their professional careers." Ms. Arrieche also earned the BSO-Peabody Conducting Fellowship for the 2012-2013 season, which was extended through the 2013-2014 season. She has participated in master classes with Kurt Masur, Fabio Mechetti, Hugh Wolf, and Robert Spano.

**Joseph Young** is increasingly regarded as one of America's rising young conductors. His recent engagements include the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Tucson Symphony, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Delaware Symphony Orchestra and Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música. In 2013, Joseph was a Semi-finalist in the Gustav Mahler International Conducting Competition (Bamberg, Germany). In 2011, he was one out of six conductors featured in the League of American Orchestras' prestigious Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview, hosted by the Louisiana Philharmonic. In 2008, Joseph was the first recipient of the Sir Georg Solti Foundation Career Grant for young conductors. Recently concluding his tenure as Resident Conductor of The Phoenix Symphony, Joseph dedicated his energy and passion to audiences of all ages. Prior to joining The Phoenix Symphony, Joseph concluded a successful season with the Buffalo Philharmonic as assistant conductor and League of American Orchestras Conducting Fellow. In 2007 Joseph made his professional debut as the first recipient of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra-Peabody Institute Conducting Fellowship. From 2007-2009 he worked with the Baltimore Symphony where his responsibilities included leading the orchestra in numerous education and outreach concerts and assisting Music Director Marin Alsop and such conductors as John Adams, Leonard Slatkin, Arild Remmereit and Jun Märkl.

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British-born, New York City-based, **DJ Rekha** is a DJ, curator, record label owner and educator. Called the "Ambassador of Bhangra" by the *New York Times* and named one of the most influential South Asians by *Newsweek*, Rekha is among the first DJs to merge classic Bhangra and Bollywood sounds into the language of contemporary electronic dance music. Since establishing herself on the club scene with her inaugural event, *Basement Bhangra* at SOB's nightclub in 1997, Rekha has produced some of the longest-running and most successful parties in New York, including Bollywood Disco, and Mutiny. Rekha also produces a weekly radio show, Bhangra and Beyond. Her label, Beat Bazaar Music, launched in November of 2011 with its first release, *Pyar Baile*. Rekha's musical accomplishments include sound design for the Tony award-winning Broadway Show, "Bridge and Tunnel" and the off-Broadway show, "Rafta Rafta." She also served as the associate producer for the NPR Radio Documentary, "A Feet in Two Worlds." She marked the ten-year anniversary of *Basement Bhangra* in 2007, with the compilation, *DJ Rekha presents Basement Bhangra*, featuring an array of international stars. In 2009, Rekha was chosen by the State Department for a three-week tour of India as a cultural ambassador to the U.S. Consulate. More accolades followed later in the year when DJ Rekha was inducted into the New York City's People's Hall of Fame. Rekha has performed at the White House and given lectures and led workshops on Hip Hop, politics and South Asian art for various universities and institutions, including the Smithsonian, Brooklyn Museum and Columbia University. Her work has been featured on CNN, NPR, PBS.

Percussionist/producer **Dave Sharma's** been extremely busy both on stage and in the studio: In recent months, he's headlined the Montreal Jazz Festival (100,000 people) and toured Europe and the States with Brooklyn's disco orchestra Escort-- who's eponymous debut was one of Rolling Stone's top 50 records of the year; performed on "Late Night with David Letterman" with Ultra Records' MNDR; held a residency at Carnegie Hall with Hindustani crossover artist Falu; developed sound design and music for MAPP-sponsored artist Samita Sinha's "Cipher"; and produced and mixed the breakthrough "Turn Up the Stereo" LP for Juno-nominated band Delhi 2 Dublin. In 2012, he was selected as part of ASCAP's prestigious Paul Cunningham Songwriters Workshop. He has performed at some of the most iconic venues in the world, including Wembley Stadium in London, Madison Square Garden in New York and the Gaité Lyrique in Paris, with artists including Moby, Cheap Trick, Kailash Kher, and Malkit Singh. An original cast member of the A.R. Rahman/Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Bombay Dreams," Sharma teaches Indian percussion at the Chhandayan Center for Indian Music, and is a teaching artist via Carnegie Hall's Weill Institute.

The **Chicago Sinfonietta** is a professional orchestra that forms unique cultural connections through the universal language of symphonic music. For over 25 years, the Sinfonietta has pushed artistic and social boundaries to provide an alternative way of hearing, seeing and thinking about a symphony orchestra. Each concert experience fuses inventive new works with classical masterworks from a diverse array of voices to entertain, transform and inspire. The Sinfonietta has a proud history of having enriched the cultural, educational and social quality of life in Chicago under the guidance of Founding Music Director Paul Freeman. Mei-Ann Chen succeeded Paul Freeman as the Chicago Sinfonietta's Music Director beginning with the 2011-12 season. In 2012 the Sinfonietta was honored with two national awards for excellence from the League of American Orchestras, one for adventurous programming and one recognizing Maestro Chen with the Helen M. Thompson Award for an Emerging Music Director.

The Chicago Sinfonietta thanks its season sponsors including BP, Naperville's SECA fund, the Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Magazine, Southwest Airlines, the Hotel Arista, the Fairmont Hotel, and WBEZ 91.5 FM. Event sponsors include PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Brazilian Consulate.

### **Calendar Listing**

#### **GLOBAL DANCE PARTY**

Saturday, March 22, 8:00 pm, Wentz Concert Hall, Naperville

Monday, March 24, 7:30 pm, Symphony Center, Chicago

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**Chicago Sinfonietta**

**Mei-Ann Chen**, Music Director

**Paul Freeman**, Founder and Music Director Emeritus

**Alexandra Arrieche**, conductor

**Joseph Young**, conductor

**DJ Rekha**

**Dave Sharma**, percussion

PIAZZOLLA	Fuga y Misterio
VILLA-LOBOS	Bachianas Brasileiras No. 2
DJ REKHA/SHARMA	Pyar Baile (Love Dance)
Arr. Sam Shoup	
HOLLAND	The Party Starter
	Motor City Dance Mix
DOHNANYI	Symphonic Minutes
DJ REKHA/SHARMA	Rekha's Dance Party
Arr. Sam Shoup	

**Tickets: \$42–\$54 (Wentz Concert Hall); \$15–\$54 (Symphony Center)**

For more information on the Chicago Sinfonietta, please visit [www.chicagosinfonietta.org](http://www.chicagosinfonietta.org).

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