

US not ready for South Asian Eminem - Ranidu

Despite its apparently increasing popularity in India and Sri Lanka, hip hop is yet to find its Asian art form in terms of originality. This, however, remains a debatable issue among Asian rap artists with the million dollar question before them being "how we should go about."

How to retain a South Asian flavour in hip hop and rap. The beat is their drive. The music, the culture, the religion, the dress, the sound, the masses, all this could stand in their way but their style.

Lets hear it straight from local boys in the region who face the music.



BLAAZE: Indian rapper/artist contributed to a myriad of soundtracks for movies; recent Tamil hits: Sivaji, The Boss'.

"With more sounds being created the more awareness it brings and the more acceptance it gains." He feels films are a good way to introduce people to the genre, yet the 'Yo Yo' variety of party rap is being overdone now.

'Yo Yo' rap is the most commercial type of hip hop. It shows up the worst stereotypes, has little to do with the art and more with partying than dissecting issues or events.

"There are numerous kids who are into rap and hip hop, but they need to understand that imitating rappers in the West, with concern to the messages they bring, is not what will truly take us to the next level. Hip hop in India can only be justified if we do justice to the art form."

RANIDU LANKAGE: Sri Lankan rap artist based in US, contributed to popularise Sinhalese hip hop and R&B in Sri Lanka, released three albums and works with the producer Iraj Weeraratne.

"We try to blend styles but retain a South-Asian flavour.

The industry "has grown over the last four years (in Sri Lanka)" and, as a result, the "video quality has gone up."

The industry has to progress further in terms of its infrastructure.

In Sri Lanka, You have to come up with your own promotion and there is no proper way to record the amount of sales. When you say no.1 in Sri Lanka, you do not mean the biggest song in sales but the most popular song requested on the radio."

There are further issues with copyright laws. Open to experimentation.

America is not as open to experimentation as the U.K, European or Australian markets." I am sure the US is not ready for a South-Asian Eminem."



HARRIS JAYARAJ: Composer of soundtracks for Hindi, Tamil and Telugu cinema.

"We were pushed to come up with Indian melodies; now we are open to the global market...when I came into the industry it was ruled by bhangra, Indian melodies and disco. Now, the music scene in Indian film is more versatile than before."



JAY SEAN: British-Indian R&B singer and rap artist debut "Me Against Myself", released in U.K in 2004. Careers best: "Dance with You", "Eyes on You" and "Stolen" did a cameo role in the Bollywood movie, "Kya Kool Hai Hum" his sound 'fusion'.

"Copyright in Asia is not so strict" compared to the U.K. He thinks, "60-70 per cent of material is pirated in South India including illegal downloads." "We use hip hop for the drive, the energy behind the beat, not the rap." "Music needs freshness you can take any platform you want but you need a strong melody line."

"Indian music has the potential to outsell Western records."



MAF Band Wagon Show tomorrow

Chamikara Weerasinghe

Music lovers in Moratuwa are in for a treat tomorrow (Sept 9) as the Moratuwa Arts Forum (MAF) will bring Sri Lanka's top Western Singing Sensations on one deck, to perform at MAF's first Band Wagon Show, to be held at Hotel Ramnal, Moratuwa.

The show, "MAF Musical Band Wagon 01" will be the first in a series of musical events lined up by the Forum, the organizers said.

Apart from music and dance, the current event and incorporates a 30 minutes sing-along session for the participants.

The Programme will feature Chandral Fonseka of 'Kings', Channa Galappaththi of 'Wildfire', Lincoln de Silva leader of 'Super Pink & Purple', Lankika and Chanka Perera of 'Golden Chimes' Manella Joseph of 'Winslow Six' Meril Fernando - Formerly of 'Amigos Romanticos' Eranjani & Wiranjan Perera of 'Super Pink & Purple' Rolinson Ferdinando & Priya Peiris of La Bambas' Brian Cooray - Formerly 'Pink & Purple' Nihal Fernando & Thilak Perera of 'Niro' & Solo Performers Sarath Gunawardena, C.L. Fonseka, Anuradha Mendis, Lilanthi Jayaratna, Pinnal Fernando, Hemaka Fernando & Sumangi Jayaweera, Lucky Deva, Chandani



The Moratuwa Arts Forum: Derrick de Silva, C. L. Fonseka, Evington Perera, Lucille Pereira, Hiran Fernando. (Project Chairman), Hiranthi Jayaratna.

Silva, Ivan De Silva (Ex-Pink & Purple), Sohan Weerasinghe of 'Xperiment', Mariaziel Gunatilleka, Rukshan Perera, formerly of 'Super Golden Chimes', Primal Livange of 'Flame' & Shanelli will also perform.

Latin dance sequences are

expected to add more variety to the event, said the organizers.

There will be a souvenir & ticket draw with many prizes in the offing.

Beyil Palihawadana will compere the show. The "Super Pink & Purple" led by MAF member Lincoln

De Silva will direct music. MAF organizing committee comprises Hiran Fernando, Delvin Pereira, Laksiri Fernando, Anuradha Mendis, Suranga Fernando, Lincoln de Silva, Brian Cooray, Thilak Perera, Eranjani Perera, Priya Peiris & Ivan De Silva.

Derek on guitar continues: Think round 'major' - Derek

Chamikara Weerasinghe

The In Tune is back with Derek on Guitar by popular request. We provided several basic scale patterns for you to practise with, including the major scale, the dominant seventh scale, minor scale and the minor scale with flattened 7th.

Derek also gave a lesson on triads, how triads could be played note by note starting from note F

on the first fret of the 6th string of your guitar.

"And we finished on the third fret of the first string. Derek advised you to sing the notes of the triad first, say, "da..da..da" and to play the notes to match that sound as you practise them. Also, you can play them first and then sing.

So get back to your previous lessons. If you have got them right, congratulations.

This is what Derek has to say

about your next lesson, I mean this one.

"When you talk about scales, be they major or minor, you must think that all scales are based around the major scale."

The major scale is the pattern you get when you play notes C,D,E,F,G,A,B and C (the octave note or the eighth note) on the guitar fingerboard.

Our next lesson is to play the same notes but with a different

tonic, that is to say you are going to play the same notes beginning with a different note on the same scale up to an octave. For example you start playing a scale starting from note D, which is the 2nd degree of the natural major scale (Cto C), and you play up to an octave to reach the next D note. You play D to D. The result is you will get a minor scale with a flattened 3rd and a flattened 7th from the major scale pattern. Your next scale will be E to



Hi folks,

An office is a place where you expect least disturbance while you are working. If people start messing around in your office, you simply cannot work and your tension increases.

This applies especially to those involved in delicate jobs that needs a good touch like music.

I have seen at musical shows that some individuals get worked up and run up to where musicians are playing.

Not only that, sometimes they demand that the musicians give them what they want. Even more some individuals demand that they sing a song and the musicians back them.

This is simply disgusting and unacceptable. It is not nice to storm into someone else's office and make a mess of things. This is exactly what these individuals are doing whether they are aware of it or not.

This is what a live performer, who leads a band had to say about the situation: " My office is where I play . I do not like to see people messing around in my office. "

- Chamikara

Song Bank

Club at the end of the street

- Elton John

Intro: Ab/Eb... Eb... REPEAT TWICE THEN BEGIN... (with real jazz feel)

Eb G
When the shades are drawn
Ab Eb
And the light of the moon is banned
Bb
And the stars up above
Ab/Bb
(Kind of off beat)
Walk the heavens hand in hand
Ab/Bb Eb G
There's a shady place
Ab Ab/A
At the end of the working day
Eb/Bb
Where young lovers go
Bb7 Ab/Bb Eb ...Ah/Eb...Eb
And this hot little trio plays

Ab - D#Ab - Ab
That's where we meet
Eb - Ab/Eb - Eb
That's where we meet
G Ab - Fm
Me and you rendezvous
Bb/A Eb - Ab/Eb - Ab
In the club at the end of the street

(REPEAT AT END)

Oooh where we meet
Oooh where we meet
Me and you rendezvous
In the club at the end of the street
(VERSE 2: SAME AS ABOVE)
From the alleyways
Where the catwalks gently sway
You hear the sound of Otis
And the voice of Marvin Gaye
In this smoky room
There's a jukebox plays all night
And we can dance real close
Beneath the pulse of a neon light

Bridge: Follows directly after 2nd chorus from Ab -chord

Fm Bb7
Theres a downtown smell of cooking
Eb Ab
From the flame on an open grill
Eb Bb
Theres a sax and a big bass pumping
Gb (or F#) same thing!!.....HOLD FOR Ab
Lord have mercy
Ab Eb
You cant sit still
You cant sit still

Melodies of '70's at OTSC

Old Thoman's Swimming Club (OTSC) will hold its month of September Club Nite "Melodies of '70's" on September 15, at OTSC.

And Bharathi will sing. Music will be by "Wild Flowers" with Battison.

Special guest spot will be Ronnie Lietch.

The compere will be Brian Thomas.



E, which is also a minor scale with a flattened 9th (flattened 2nd), a sharpened 9th(sharpened 2nd), a sharpened 5th and a flattened 7th.

Then you play from F to F, you will get a major scale with a flattened 5th or (sharpened 4th). Play G to G, a major scale with a flattened 5th interval, which is also called the Dominant 7 th scale.

B to B, a minor scale with a flattened 9th (flattened 2nd), a sharpened 9th, flattened 5th and a sharpened 5th, which is also called the Minor 7th flattened 5 th scale.

Practise them and try to get the feel of these scales and their characteristic moods.

They will be helpful to get you started in terms of thinking musically and to play what you might have in your head on the guitar," said Derek.