

Founded in 1994 by Kiran Thakrar, Strings has become the foremost exponent of Indian music in the UK and worldwide. Strings present spellbinding performances of Indian music in a range of styles, from Gujarati Folk Dandiya Raas & Garba to soul-shaking Bollywood classics to Bhangra to Swahili to Fusion.

Strings spectacular presentations are driven by its two key members.

Kiran Thakrar, the founder and musical director of the band, has been working, living and breathing music for over 30 years. He has performed in more than 4000 concerts worldwide and has worked with some of the most respected names in the music, theatre and film industries music like Belbel Gilberto at MOBO Awards ceremony, Legendary Late Nusarajat Fatehalikhan, Bollywood music directors Nadeem Shraavan & Ravindra Jain. He is the first Asian artist who was invited as judge in final and semifinal of world's biggest **Eurovision Song Contest**. Kiran continues to be the first choice for Bollywood playback singers, to set up the backing band for their concerts happening in UK & Europe. Artists include Hariharan, Roopkumar Rathod, Sweta Pandit, Anuradha Pundwal, Alka Yagnik, Kavita Krisnamurthy, Richa Sharma, Mahalakshmi Iyer, Reshma and many more.

He has composed and produced many award-winning albums, such as his work on "Beyond Boundaries", which was voted '**Best World Music Album of 2004**' by Canada's JUNO judges. His latest short film "Diana", for which he composed original music score, has recently won the world-famous **IRIS Prize Awards**.

Anu Shukla, the lead singer and artistic director of the band, began her international singing career at the age of 12 and has subsequently performed in Spain, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Holland, India, America, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa. She won the **Best Female Singer award** for the "All-UK Hindi Singers' Competition" in 1993. She has also collaborated with world famous icons like German band Dissidenten and American Rnb superstar Ginuwine. In 2009 she was invited by prolific artistic director Martin Amaud of Les Petits to lend her vocals to the famous Bollywood musical "Bollywood Land-Where love never dies" in the heart of Madrid's Westend theatre.

The band has played at everything from international festivals and royal receptions to Never Mind The Buzzcocks (where they did a rousing version of 'Cotton Eye Joe' with Bill Bailey, Danny Alan, David Jones-Mcfly, Simon Amstell and Phill Jupitus) – even a two-night stint performing alongside Bill Bailey in front of 20,000 people at the Wembley arena.

They have been described by: -

- Time Out as -"**Soul Shaking**"
- Last FM as "**Fantastic Vocal Performance**" -
- Royal National Theatre, South Bank, London as- "**A very diverse and truly magnificent band**"

Past Clients:-

- Her Majesty The Queen of Britain and Prince Charles for The Commonwealth Day
- House of Lords
- Ministry of tourism, Oman,
- Establishment Arts and Culture, Alegrie
- Universal Pictures Hollywood
- Fremantle Media
- Royal National Theatre
- Laxmi Mital, Hinduja, Arora group, Madhwani group, Sahara Pariwaar
- BBC (opening of Media Village, White city), Channel 4, BBC2 TV (performance in Nevermind The Buzzcocks), BBC Asian Network Diwali Special
- Llyods TSB Jewel awards, Asian business awards, Asian music awards, National Television awards
- Louis Vuitton, The National Trust UK, Goldman Sachs, Deloitte, Tesco, Barclay Bank
- London Mela, Tooting Mela, Belgrave Mela, Crawley Mela, Croydon Mela, Southampton Mela, International Festival of Sea, Ethno Dance Festival Russia, Riverside Festival Nottingham, Leeds Asian Mela, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Okarina Ethno festival - Slovenia, Sommerscene Festival - Malmö (Sweden), Limetree Festival, Live at Bandstand, Portsmouth, City of London Festival
- Mayor of London (Dandia at Trafalgar Square, and Diwali at Trafalgar Square)
- And many more.....

STRINGS

Uk's Foremost Bollywood and Garba band since 1994

