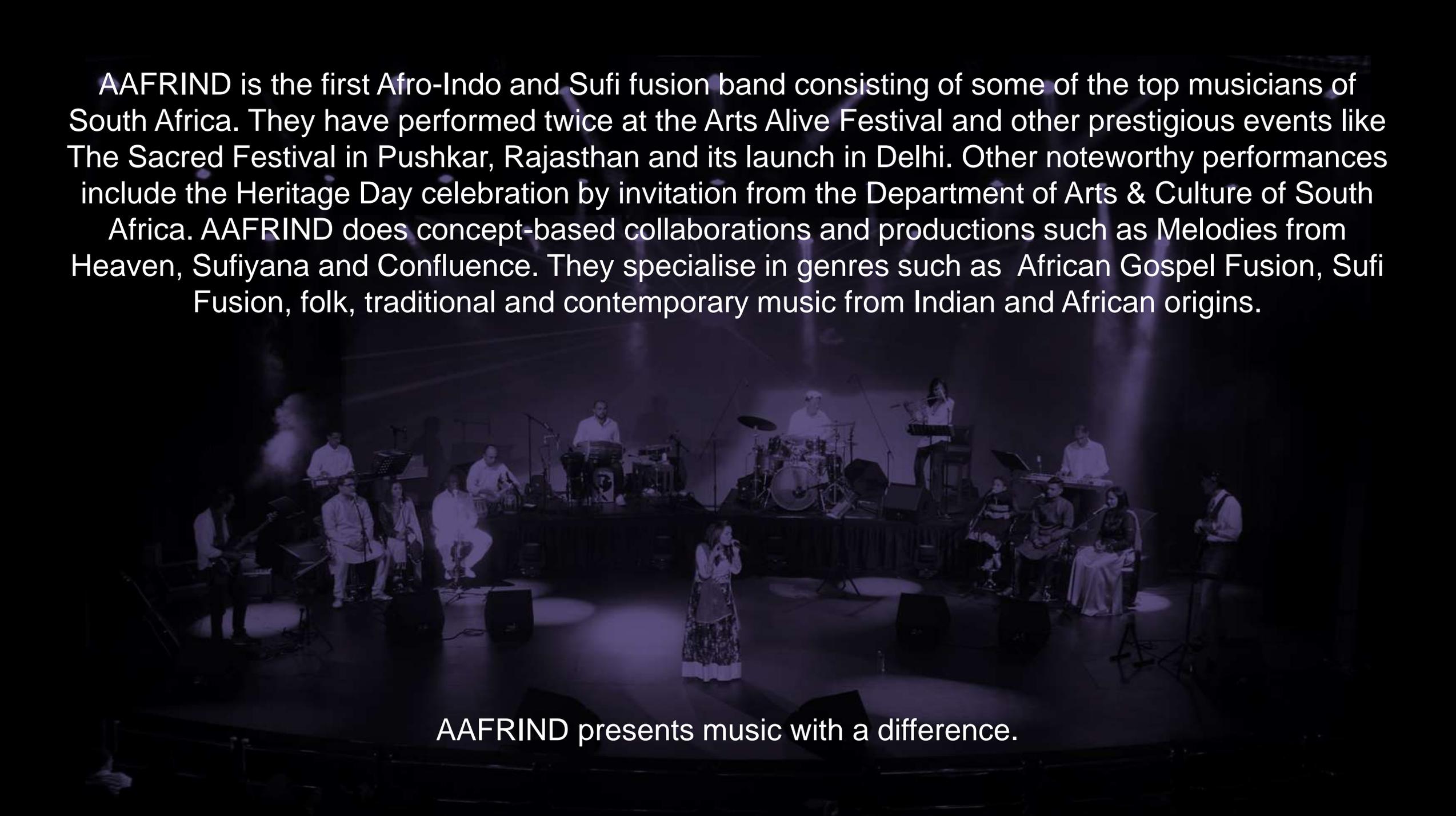


آفریند

A A F R I N D

AAFRIND is the first Afro-Indo and Sufi fusion band consisting of some of the top musicians of South Africa. They have performed twice at the Arts Alive Festival and other prestigious events like The Sacred Festival in Pushkar, Rajasthan and its launch in Delhi. Other noteworthy performances include the Heritage Day celebration by invitation from the Department of Arts & Culture of South Africa. AAFRIND does concept-based collaborations and productions such as Melodies from Heaven, Sufiyana and Confluence. They specialise in genres such as African Gospel Fusion, Sufi Fusion, folk, traditional and contemporary music from Indian and African origins.



AAFRIND presents music with a difference.

# Maithili Shome

Maithili Shome is a young, unique singer, song-writer, composer and pianist of Indian origin. She sings in approximately 20 languages including 6 African Languages. She specialises in genres such as Traditional African, African Gospel, Sufi Fusion, Light Music, Folk Fusion, Opera, Indian and Western Classical. She has performed at prestigious events by Shared History in India and South Africa, alongside the best of the world musicians at The Sacred Festival in Pushkar, Rajasthan. She also performed by invitation from the Department of Arts and Culture at the Heritage Day Festival in Kimberley. Maithili made her commercial debut by Zee TV Africa along with the launch of her own band Indo-Afro Fusion Band, AAFRIND. She was crowned Zee TV's Golden Girl after having represented South Africa in the Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 2016. She was part of the Arts Alive Festival two years consecutively with her band. In 2016, she collaborated with SAMA and Grammy-Award winning flautist, Wouter Kellerman. She has also collaborated with the University of Pretoria 80-piece Symphonic Orchestra and Symphonic Winds for 2 years consecutively, 2018 and 2019, which was a combination of Afrikaans, Zulu and Hindi as well as flavours of a Raga. Maithili was a song-writer and a playback singer for two South African films – *Deep End* and *Kandasamys The Wedding* in which the song *Unnale Anbe* was nominated for SATMA Best Indian Album. Noteworthy performances include the Kasumbo Music Festival in Ahmedabad, Gujarat with Kailash Kher, Sairam Dave and Kirtidan Gadhvi.





# Luke van der Merwe

Luke began his journey in music with the bagpipes. In high school he took up the guitar, playing both classical & rock music. He also pursued studies in Indian classical music on the sitar and private study of the Oud, the middle eastern fretless lute. In keeping with his interest of world music and the field of improvisation Luke also took up playing various ethnic flutes, percussion and the Didgeridoo during this time. Parallel to this Luke also began establishing himself as guitarist in the contemporary and pop genre. He has collaborated, recorded and toured the US, Russia and with SAMA award winner & Grammy award winning artist Wouter Kellerman. Notable performances have been at the acclaimed Carnegie Hall in NYC in 2014 & 2015, Jodhpur Palace in India in 2015, the Ticket-Pro Dome in Johannesburg for the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016 and The New Arts Theatre in Saint Petersburg in 2017. He has done numerous recordings for local artists as well as music for corporate and television advertising. Luke is also the Music Director at the Hatfield Christian Church in Pretoria.

# Vivek Parshotam

Vivek Parshotam is a multi-talented percussionist. His love for music was carefully nurtured to develop an art form that would feed his naturally creative spirit and lead him into a wider creative space. While his musical talent is rooted in the Tabla, he has also mastered the Djembe and other percussion instruments as well. Vivek has also collaborated with the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the University of Pretoria Orchestra as well as many local and international artists - – such as Muriel Marco, an Argentinian jazz pianist and composer of Argo-African Fusion music. Having performed at the Royal Albert Hall in 2006 and 2008 respectively, Vivek has grown to be a master percussionist and has explored the rich diversity of musical genres that today has to offer. In 2019, Vivek released his first instrumental single "The Beginning". Additionally, Vivek has also played the Tabla and Pakhawaj for the SATMA National Award Nominated Film for "Best Indian Album", "Kandasamys The Wedding".





# Phresh

Ratshepe Makhene, commonly known as 'Phresh' is a singer/song writer, percussionist and a bass player. Makhene holds a National N6 Certificate in Popular Music: Performance from Central Johannesburg College. At the age of 16, Phresh lived and worked in the UK for 3 years performing at various festivals and numerous corporate functions for South African Tourism at the S.A Consulate. He has also worked on numerous works by world renowned choreographer Gregory Maqoma as a bass player. During 2016/2017 Phresh co wrote music and toured with British based dance company State Of Emergency's latest work 'Where Is Home'. Phresh continues to toured extensively as a bass player, percussionist and singer working with Flautist Wouter Kellerman. He has worked with British composer George Fenton as a singer on the sound track for 'PRIDE', a 2005 Nominated Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Children's Program. He was the singer/song writer on Ricky Kej & Wouter Kellerman's 2015 Grammy Award Winning Album 'Winds Of Samsara'. Additionally, he was the singer on the movie 'KALUSHI' 2018 Golden Horn Award for Best Achievement in Original Score in Feature Film.

# Curt Petrus

Curt Petrus is born in Wynberg, Cape Town. He got his music interest from his musical family. He started playing drums on pots and pans, as a young child. In 2004, he moved to Johannesburg and developed a huge interest in piano and keyboard. In 2006 he studied Piano, Music Theory and Music Business at Campus of Performing Arts. In 2009, he began lecturing at The National School of Arts and at the Rhema South Music Academy. Curt started working with The Late Lulu Dikana and became her music director performing at the John Legend South African Tour. Curt is currently part of a cover band Dolce Vita who are working and touring throughout the country. In 2015 they released a single, their rendition of the 90's hit track "Ain't Gonna Hurt Nobody" and it was on the top 10 playlist for 4 weeks on Cape Town's 104.9 Heart FM. Curt performed at the 2016 Standard Bank Joy of Jazz with Jonathan Butler and Gerald Albright. Curt is currently busy writing and composing his own music and has a strong belief that music can change anybody's life for the better.





# David Klassen

David Klassen is a Cape Town born, now Johannesburg based drummer/percussionist who has worked with some of South Africa's most prominent artists, both locally and internationally. Artists as diverse as Hugh Masekela, Ernie Smith, Amanda Strydom, PJ Powers and Hotline, Louise Carver, Victor Masondo, RJ Benjamin, Coenie De Villiers, Kurt Darren, Jonathan Butler, Concord Nkabinde, Grammy winner Wouter Kellerman and a host of others. He has also been in the drummer's seat for a number of television productions such as Noot vir Noot, Strictly Come Dancing, Gospel Skouspel, Afrikaans Is Groot, In Die Kollig Met as well as Idols SA. David has toured internationally with some of these artists to countries like the USA, India, Germany, The Netherlands, The Carribean, the UK, Kuwait and Mauritius.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vy8c1\\_4o74A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vy8c1_4o74A)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGifDLCTZv4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LYPGcAAF0E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3-7z6kvLZY7>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23BvqBDCxUY>