

Why Ekta - Why do we do what we do?

“Ekta” in Sanskrit, means **Unity**.

Right from the conception of this project, our intention was to write a piece of programmatic music for the laptop idiom, which is not always the norm. With the power of technology, art has become more abstract and non-representational and it becomes a harder challenge to tell a story with a beginning, middle and end, to write something representational.

Right from the beginning, it was the compositional vision that drove the project and the technology came into the picture as a way to realize that compositional vision. Our composition is inspired and informed by many extra musical influences such as physics, philosophy, humanities, religion etc. (yes, as a group we had many meetings we were just talking about topics besides music and technology and discussing the purpose of art in general). Unless the musicians make an attempt to relate to the piece at that level, many things we do might not make any sense. We understand that we all come from different musical backgrounds and relate to sound and soundscapes in different ways. For some it might be about getting out of the comfort zone and being curious of what is happening.

The piece is about establishing the essential unity of all living and non-living things. The fact that at the atomic level we are all essentially the same and the so called differences between different people are just an illusion is what we want to bring to the forefront. This understanding we believe is crucial in today's world for human race to coexist in a more harmonious and peaceful way. As Prof. Lawrence Krauss puts it “.... the most poetic thing of the universe is the fact that we are all indeed stardust”.

At a compositional and musical level we want to represent this by first presenting, discrete and distinct entities that are so far apart in its ideologies (think of , Hitler juxtaposed with Martin Luther King, in the backdrop of a war sounds and world music from Bulgaria). The loud middle section represents the problems that we, as a race ,face because of these illusory differences, war and suffering etc.....The last section is where we establish the “unity” of all these elements by taking the same samples we used in the beginning (and also some others) but, presenting them in a more smeared way, so that they all coalesce into one cloudy texture representing the fact that despite the difference, we are all indeed stardust...And the piece ends on a low note, leaving the audience to reflect on what just happened.