

Musical Dialogue, Culture, and Mother Earth

This lecture-recital presents original compositions and arrangements inspired by traditional music and nature in an endeavour to raise awareness of the environment. Starting in 2010, the collaboration between guitarist Le-Tuyen Nguyen (Australia) and percussionist Salil Sachdev (USA) has been an evolving and exciting musical dialogue between two musicians with varied musical backgrounds residing on opposite sides of the world. Discussion will analyse how traditional melodic and rhythmic idioms are weaved with Western music exploring the technical and expressive dimensions of the guitar enhanced with percussion instruments from various parts of the world. Musical excerpts and live demonstrations will explain the instrumental and compositional techniques 1) to recreate the tone color and the sonority of the Vietnamese gong ensembles by the confluence of guitar harmonics and Tibetan gong; 2) to depict the ambience of the landscapes and music of the highlands by using the Hang drum (invented in Switzerland in 2000) and guitar overtone clusters; 3) to capture the aura of traditional dance and festive contexts incorporating guitar scordaturas (different tuning systems) combined with the West African drum (Djembe), rattles and foot jingles.

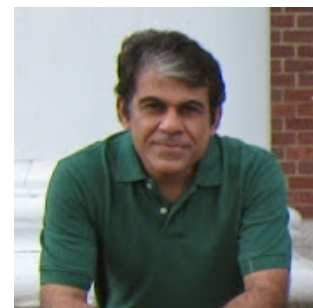
Dr. Nguyen Le-Tuyen is an Australian composer, researcher, and teacher. He studied music and education at the University of New South Wales and completed his doctorate at the Australian National University. Currently based in Sydney, he has worked in leadership positions within the New South Wales Department of Education and a Teaching Fellowship at the Australian National University School of Music. An active advocate for culture and nature, Dr Nguyen has collaborated with various academic and traditional musicians, visual artists, dancers, scientists, writers, government and non-government organisations.



Dr. Nguyen Le-Tuyen

University of New South Wales

Prof. Salil Sachdev is on the music faculty at Bridgewater State University (BSU), Massachusetts, USA. He teaches music fundamentals, musics of the world, 20th century music as well as directs Mela (BSU World Music Ensemble). He has composed music for orchestra, percussion, piano, theater, voice, and electronic music. Salil's interest in world music has taken him to India, Ireland, Africa and Cuba. He has studied frame drumming, West African djembe drumming, the bodhran (Irish drum), and Solkattu (the rhythmic system of South India). Salil has made two documentary films, one on the music of the Sidis (an ethnic group of East African ancestry living in India since 800-900 years) and the other on the traditional music of Mali, West Africa.



Prof. Salil Sachdev

Bridgewater State University,
(Massachusetts, USA)