

## **EAST MEETS WEST MUSICIANS:**

**Daisy Paradis** has been a disciple of Maestro Ali Akbar Khan since 1966. She has studied sitar with Krishna Bhatt, as well as attending workshops with Pdt. Ravi Shankar and Nikhil Banerjee. Her vocal studies were with Maestro Khan and Prof. A.T. Kanan of Calcutta. She is a co-founder of the Ali Akbar College of Music in California with Maestro Ali Akbar Khan. She has performed extensively on both the East and West Coasts as well as in India, and has performed with Maestro Ali Akbar Khan, Steve Gorn, Pandit Samir Chatterjee and Laraajee, among others. She has also worked in a variety of fusion collaborations from Western classical to jazz to hip-hop.

**Naren Budhakar** is well known as one of New York's most prominent tabla players. He has played in concert with many of India's finest classical musicians, including Pandit Jaisraj, Ustad Ashish Khan, Anup Jalota, Pandit Ramesh Misra and Ustad Mashkoor Ali Khan. He has studied with Samir Chatterji, the renowned tabla maestro from Calcutta, and Shabbir Nissar, the tabla wizard from Hyderabad and the son of legendary Ustad Shaikh Dawood. He has also done extensive crossover collaborations with Flamenco and Latin percussion; Irish-Celtic; Jazz Reverend Kim Leslie, and Warren Rosenstein, the Jazzhole torchbearer.

**Akal Dev Sharonne** is a graduate with Highest Honors from the New England Conservatory, where she studied with Janes Pappoutsakis and Robert diDomenico. She has appeared as soloist with the Boston Pops, with Clarion Concerts, and with other orchestras in NY and Massachusetts. She enjoys a recital career that has brought her to such diverse venues as a 9<sup>th</sup> century village in the south of France, the islands of the Caribbean, and the Nazi Holocaust memorial in Dachau, Germany. Along with her classical training, she has improvised in concert with Paul Winter, David Darling, and Paul Horn, and has received numbers of grants from Meet The Composer for innovative improvisatory projects. She is the Artistic Director of The Pioneer Valley Chamber Players, in residence in the Valley in the summertime. Ms. Sharonne has been studying raga with Daisy Paradis since 1995. When not concertizing in Massachusetts, she lives in a passive solar home in the NC mountains, renting space from a male orange tabby cat.

**Mark Fraser** is a founding member of the Adaskin String Trio, formed in Montreal in 1994. The group has performed to critical acclaim all over North America, and in 2002 released the complete string trios of Beethoven on a two-disc set on the MusicaOmnia label. Mr. Fraser holds degrees from McGill University, l'Université de Montréal, and the Hartt School in Hartford Connecticut. He has studied with Walter Joachim, Aldo Parisot, Yuli Turovsky, and David Finkel. Mark teaches cello in the Pioneer Valley in Western Massachusetts, where he lives, and he has just recently become Executive Director and co-artistic Director of Mohawk Trail Concerts, based in Western Massachusetts.