

E-Raga

*“Music is pre-existent to man
and will exist even after his death”*

J. Cage

The name E-raga expresses the spirit of this project uniting two apparently distant and antithetical worlds: the technological and futuristic Western world and the ancient culture of the Eastern world. The ancestral and persuasive melodies of the Indian tradition performed by the bansuri flute (Raga) merge with the hypnotic and immersive sounds of the electric guitar and live electronics (“E” for Electric).

This title refers to the Indian concept of Samsara (Sanskrit word that indicates the cycle of life, death and rebirth) extending it to whatever is cyclical in nature. In this case, the day.

In the Indian culture this idea of cycle is applied to almost every aspect of life including music, where a piece doesn't have a beginning and an end but could be played over and over again.

After all, this way of seeing life and art isn't in contrast with the modern Western products. The two worlds somehow converge. Take for example American minimalism which, despite placing itself between the rigor of European structuralism and the indefiniteness of American composer John Cage's work, looks over the Eastern world to create a time and space different from those of traditional concert halls.

The Ragas opening the concert traditionally represent dawn: from the darkness of the night, from the indefinite, sounds introducing the beginning of a new day slowly emerge. From the indefinite magma of beginnings, light and form gradually arise followed by the Raga representing the other times of the day (morning, afternoon and evening). True metaphor of life, this oniric journey reuniting the unspeakable with the unspeakable comes to an end at night.

The music is complemented by video projections processed in real time thanks to a max / msp software interacting with different sound's parameters (i.e. height, volume, attack)

Luca Russo – bansuri

Matteo Giudici – guitars

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