

A portrait of a man with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a grey blazer over a dark shirt, playing a light-colored Fender Telecaster guitar. The background is a solid blue color.

VINAY KAUSHAL

Composer.
Guitar Player.
Music Educator.

“The Artist’s personal chemistry with his composition fuels a sense of intimacy that is easily identifiable but often hard to define. Kaushal’s work cultivates this quality.

Kaushal engages with various styles and genres, remaining careful to give each sound its unalterable place in the album’s cosmos. The dance between philosophically similar but texturally different notes is flaunted with open grace. Boredom is impossible while it plays.”

- The Score Magazine (April 2018)

the
Score
magazine

“It is ‘fusion’ in the truest sense – music, cultures, instruments and voices – very enjoyable!”

- Keith Wyatt
Ex Director G.I.T Hollywood
Noted Blues Guitarist



BIOGRAPHY

Vinay’s Music

Vinay released his debut album “Naked on a Train” in January 2018. It received accolades from some of the top names in the music industry. Vinay is all about writing and composing original music and is associated with quite a few popular acts. He is the principal songwriter for the popular Fusion act Empty Café and the high adrenaline funk band Funkatrix, along with his independent projects. He is also affiliated with a number of other projects in varying capacities.

Musical Stories & Performances

Having grown up in a musical family, Vinay's playing boasts of a unique stylistic versatility with a repertoire that includes genres like the blues, funk, jazz, rock and fusion. Having always enjoyed composing, Vinay writes music with intricacies that are rarely stumbled upon. His guitar recitals have a unique artsy accent to them, while his compositions are discerning of his individuality.

He has performed at various venues in Los Angeles including the prestigious Wiltern Theatre, Los Angeles. Blue Frogs, Hard Rock Cafes, Shisha Jazz Café, Piano Man (Delhi and Gurugram), and the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) in Mumbai along with festivals like NH7 Weekender and Sula Fest have been some of his favourite performances in India so far.

Vinay the Composer/Producer

Vinay also works as a music producer and composer. He has several projects under his belt including music production for independent artists, sessions for films and composing music for jingles, documentaries and more. His successes as a producer includes "Kahwa Speaks", an album which won the Best Folk Fusion album at the Radio City Freedom awards and international awards at the VIMA music awards in Malaysia along with music for popular children's website, Mocomi.com, which has been rated among the top 50 children's educational websites globally, by GEFL.

He is the co-founder and CEO of the music production company - [That Song in Your Head](#).

Vinay the Educator

Vinay is also a music educator, giving lessons in music theory and the guitar to individuals seeking a professional career in India’s music industry. He has conducted guitar and production clinics at venues like Gray Spark Studios, Pune; Global Music Institute, New Delhi, and the Black Box, Gurugram amongst many others.

vinay
kaushalnaked on
a train

NAKED ON A TRAIN (2018)

Fender Artist Vinay Kaushal launched his debut album 'Naked on a Train' on 28th Jan 2018. The album is a daring mix of various genres with a lot of the material conceptualised during his stint in Los Angeles. 'Naked On a Train' is a world music album drawing heavily from jazz, funk and Indian classical schools of thought.

The album has received critical acclaim from various industry biggies as well as mentions and reviews in popular and prestigious publications such as *All About Jazz* and *The Score Magazine*.

The album features 11 other musicians from all around the globe. It features a variety of instruments – the sitar, the Indian bamboo flute, the udu, the tabla, the saxophone, the upright bass in addition to the drums and layers of Vinay's stylistic versatile guitar playing. What to expect? an eclectic mix of energetic, dark and intricate musical expression.

This album was Crowd Funded in 2017 on Indiegogo and reached 140% of its goal.

Listen to the album [here](#).

UPCOMING RELEASES

Nov 2020

'Reality Check' featuring vocalist Siddharth Basrur, bassist Among Jamir and Agneya Chikte on Drums.

Jan 2021

'Elephant in the Room' featuring vocalist Aditi Ramesh, pianist Sharik Hasan (MNDFO) and percussionist Varun Venkit (Taal Inc).

Dec 2020

'Is It Sunny' featuring Shakthishree Gopalan, drummer Agneya Chikte and bassist Sam Fitzpatrick (Canada).

Feb 2021

'Duality' featuring Shirish Malhotra on tenor Saxophone.

VINAY KAUSHAL COLLECTIVE



The VK Collective performing at the Experimental Theatre, National Center for Performing Arts, Mumbai

The Vinay Kaushal Collective was created to bring a high-level of energy, and musicality to corporate and private events. The Collective embraces a cross section of musicians with a singular passion for creating music that is vibrant and new while still staying true to the influences of jazz, blues and world music.

The Vinay Kaushal Collective is comprised of a troupe of accomplished musicians, who have travelled across the world to both study music and perform.

The beauty of the Collective is its adaptability. It has performed shows from two piece sets to shows comprising of quintets. Its energy and hip sounds make it a popular choice for trendy venues and corporate gigs alike.

The VKC has performed at venues like Blue Frog, the National Centre for Performing Arts, Shisha Jazz Café, Hard Rock Cafes and many more. Some of their favourite gigs have been for corporates like Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Fiat, Hyundai and the Dutch Embassy as well! It has been a part of the International Jazz Festival in Mumbai with Vinay Kaushal featured as one of the top 20 jazz artists in India.



FUNKATRIX

Music doesn't have to always be serious! It can be fun -- as long as it's seriously good!

Funkatrix is a high energy musical trio ensemble that dares to play original funk music. Their music tends to seriously astonish every audience, elevate their adrenaline levels and leave them screaming for more!

The idea for an original funk band was born when two decade long friends and musical co-conspirators who share some powerful musical chemistry came together to write music that is true to their ethos rather than worrying about what 'sells'. The result? Fun, intense, daring, foot tapping music with sounds that resonate with all ages.

Guitarist Vinay Kaushal and drummer Shreyas Iyengar present - FUNKATRIX!

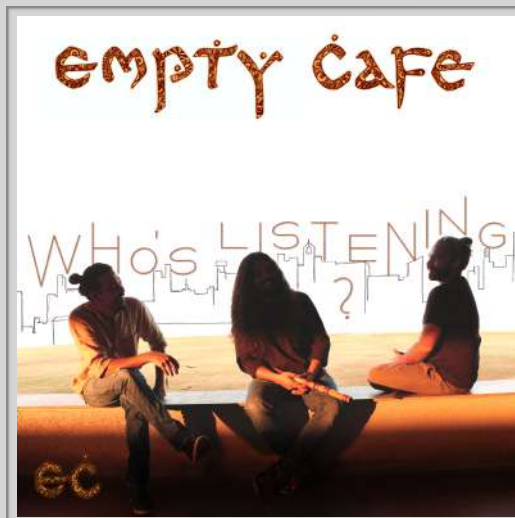
Recent performances of the band include TATA Theater at the NCPA (Mumbai), The High Spirits Cafe (Pune), B-Flat (Bengaluru), The Piano Man Jazz Club (Delhi and Gurgaon), The Quarter (Mumbai), Shisha Jazz Cafe, Sofar Sounds (Mumbai & Pune), and many more.

FUNKATRIX

[Visit webpage](#)



empty cafe



'Who's Listening' by Empty Cafe
Released September 2018

Empty Cafe's music stems from the musical interests of its three members — spanning three different continents — classical Indian music, contemporary western music, and traditional West African. Although their interests span the world, they find common ground in India. This is where their music stems from -- a true fusion starting in their homeland and spanning in the world with each member's musical influences and leanings. They take their listeners on a journey across the globe through the notes of the bamboo flute, the changes on the guitar and the beats of the djembe.

Gandhaar Amin: has been playing the flute since the age of five. No stranger to the stage, he started performing at the age of 8 as an accompanist to his father and hasn't looked back since.

Vinay Kaushal: Well-known guitarist and alumnus of the prestigious Musician's Institute (Hollywood) Alumni and Fender endorsee. He brings flavours of contemporary western music to Empty Cafe.

Varun Venkit: on percussion - a connoisseur of West African Music and an advanced level student of djembe grandmaster Mamady Keita (president of the Tam Tam Mandingue Djembe Academy). He has been designated a 'TTM certified professor' of the djembe by the grandmaster himself.

[Visit webpage](#)



PHOTOS

Click [here](#) to access full library of Hi Resolution images.

AHEAD OF HIS SOUL DEBUT RELEASE, JAZZ-FUSION MUSICIAN AND ACE GUITARIST VINAY KAUSHAL DISCUSSES HIS MUSICAL JOURNEY, BY NABEELA SHAH

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On the music train

Noted on a Tropic cruise after breakfast, made the move to pursue music professionally. Although music had always been second nature to him (he had been a part of various popular bands in his hometown of Pune, including his own fusion art World Café), Kanishk's opportunity came by Indian-American guitar hero and MI alumnae Briggs Sakre at his college as the inspiration to apply to MI. "It was just mind-blowing. When I saw him perform, that's when I realized, 'Wow, this is really the level of musicianship there.'"

While pursuing a degree in guitar performance at MI in 2005, Kanishk found himself interacting with and studying under the wife's side of the guitar world, including many of his personal idols – Scott Henderson, Tenger Emmerson and Paul Gilbert.

"You actually play worse when you get out of a music school because you're so saturated with all that information"

you're like [John] McLaughlin, but you actually play worse when you get out of a music school because you're so saturated with all that information," he says. To overcome the overload, Rashad locked himself in his room and

had only tracked drums for, like, three songs." That's when he went back to the drawing board to record and self-produce his debut release, *Reverend*, across various studios using multi-track recording; the album is currently in its mixing and mastering stages. Apart from reggae in a few of his MCs, Kershall has various contributions. "Naked" is a *Tool* song. Kershall collaborates with some of the music (direct) biggest names: drummer Andrew King, percussionist Yusef Yusef, keyboardist Horshy Macken and Kristian Swarczewski, vocalist Shavon Body, tabla player Sauri Korseva, saxophonist Shricki Malhotra and bassist Gauthier Amin. It also includes a special guest and one of Kershall's earliest musical influences — his mother and star player Sittin' Katina.

'Jazz helps you improvise your music'

Composer, guitarist and music educator, Vinay Kaushal, who is performing in the city next week, talks about jazz music and his experiences as a student in USA



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Viney Kanchal from Viney Kanchal Collective Farm is an advocate of the

I was exposed to a variety of genres of music while growing up. This helped shape my musical influences.

story behind it.

"Once, when I was in a Masonic Institute, we went to an event for which I brought a Grim Reaper. It

MORE INFO
Where: Sherin Cafe,
Singapore

**Watch the
Elegant People
Jazz Trio
perform a
mix of originals
and reinterpret
the work of jazz
greats such as
Miles Davis and
John Scofield**

Vinay Kaushal

WHERE: Backstage
Rajin Babbar's
City Centre,
Bund Garden
Road

† Lailita Subekti, subekti@cs.fordham.edu

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REALITY CAN BE STRANGER THAN FICTION: VINAY KAUSHAL

Musician Vinay Kaushal talks about his new album, how he funded it, and his experiences while recording it

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While the whole process [of working on an album, including writing and producing at the same time] was a journey, we have a lot of new things.

DAVID KALIAN, COMPOSER

Unwind

The meeting point

Catch guitarists Xander Naylor from New York City and Pune-based Vinay Kaushal at a jazz performance in the city this week

WHERE: Seattle
HOW: *Amazon's The Mindy Project*
WHEN: February
CAST: Keri Russell
CALL: *Harvard*
COVER: 238

From New York City and Pune-based Vinay Kaushal at a jazz performance in this city

'I am true to myself'



Rajany Pradhan

It takes courage to walk on an untrodden path and follow one's heart, especially when the world is expecting you to take up something else. Meet Bhavana Ruddy, the seamstress daughter of

My music has an influence of rock and jazz. I write my own lyrics.

Flavourful but niche, jazz bids to

Cornelius Mascarenhas

the raison d'être for Mabel's. Nicomachus's true-house-like call is the Miles Davis influence. Pictures of the unnamed African man, a younger descendant the wall behind the cafe's counter. It's Mabel's humble way of celebrating an era with a mixed jazz and soul direction, demonstrating that African evolution was at the core of the music genre.

But a destiny could be anything. A 30-year-old Mabel says, "Miles was criticised for not playing true jazz when he came out with his *Bitches* of the 1950s. And the bebop era, but he didn't care. He went on to do funk and later jazz rock. He believed in the right to make his interpretation of jazz anywhere," says

In Pune with its five hundred jazz lovers, a minuscule number compared to those who dig rock music, Mehdi has creditably kept up with his once-a-week, predominantly jazz/blues gigs at his *Shaba Jazz Café* at Koregaon Park for the past 16 years. No place in the country has managed to sustain jazz shows for this long, he claims.

at other times a good performance will go unobserved because of a cricket match, playing on TV. Cuban pieces have tried to introduce jazz but have given up. Local jazz performers

which regularly played the music here was Juan Carlos 'The stars.

Paromagnoli's journey with jazz began while studying at the College of Engineering, Pune. A fellow student living in the college host-

the highlight of our exist-
ence has been the show
you were up fronting
at the time. It was a
clubbed world renowned
saxophonists Houston
Pete and her husband," says
the artist.

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SOUND STRUCK

Desires of making it big in the music industry are inspiring youngsters to pursue diverse degrees in the art. The good news – some of them are well on their way to achieving their goals.

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