

# PALM EXPO 2018

Palm Expo 2018 was yet another validation of the symbiotic relationship that exists between musicians and sound/light centric paraphernalia. Here are some excerpts from conversations that we had with the artists at the expo:



## YAMAHA STAGE:

**Could you tell us about your act and take us through your repertoire?**

**Louis Banks:** Gangashakti is an indo-jazz fusion band. On the Indian classical side, we're covering both, North Indian Hindustani classical as well as Carnatic classical. Our singer will do North Indian and our violinist will do Carnatic. Then there's Mohini Dey on bass and my son Gino on drums. We're playing all my compositions, which I've written specifically for this band.

**Nise Meruno:** Since this is an expo and everyone is in high spirits, I will be playing pieces that I feel everyone will relate to. I will be playing a medley of three Bollywood songs, as that's something people don't expect from a Yamaha artist. I will also play two pieces from the contemporary pianist, Yiruma because I feel like those pieces demand your heart to be ripped open and you can pour out all your emotions.

**What are your thoughts on Yamaha's Clavinova Digital Pianos?**

**Louis Banks:** It's the best thing next to the original acoustic grand piano. The advantage is that on the grand piano, you get only one piano sound but on the Clavinova, you get several grand piano sounds like Bosendorfer, Steinway etc. - you can choose. Besides that, you have the whole orchestra as well as choir, guitar, lead sounds and synths - there's no end to it. I love it.

**Nise Meruno:** As an artist, I know that I am a Yamaha artist. My loyalty and my support is with them and vice versa. The reason I love digital pianos is that they are personally very intimate. You can put headphones on, practice on them late night and also control volume so your ears don't get filled and full. I truly feel that Yamaha products are an extension of who I am.

**How do you feel about the Montage 8?**

**Salim Merchant:** I really like the signature Yamaha sound; it's phenomenal. Right before the

Montage, I was using the Motif and I really love the piano sound on both. I love the knob on the Montage; it has such incredible features and is easily programmable. Simple things like tap tempo, using arpeggiators, filters and playing around with the cut offs is so easy to do on this keyboard. If you you're using it for recording, the way it talks to your Logic or Cubase is just mind blowing.

**Could you tell us about some of your upcoming projects this year?**

**Louis Banks:** I just completed the music for a South Indian psychological horror film called Prana, which will be out next month.

**Salim Merchant:** I'm currently working on Race 3, which is going to release on Eid. It's a massive score I've done and I've had a great time, because I worked with the Budapest orchestra and some amazing other musicians. Post this, I will be working on a musical, which I'm producing and doing music for.

**What advice would you give upcoming musicians?**

**Louis Banks:** Practice and learn how to read music, because it's an asset. With Jazz, I would say, copy the solos - it's very important as a starting point. Get a feel of how the greats played certain things. Get it in your fingers and you will get a better idea of how to go about it.

**Salim Merchant:** Learn music. Learn an instrument. You can't create a loop and say you're a musician, cause that loop will be outdated after 3 months. However, the music you'll learn will be forever.

**Mr. Rehan Siddiqui,**  
**Assistant General Manager**  
**MI Sales & Marketing**

**(Yamaha Music India Private Limited)**

**Product launches at PalmExpo 2018**

We launched the portable keyboard E463 which is a replacement model







of 453. We have also come up with the 76 keys keyboard which is popular in north east at the moment.

Some of the other products we are going to launch are the PSR S series and some drum kits and synthesizers.

In the guitar segment, we have launched the FG-TA guitar, a trans-acoustic guitar. It is patented by Yamaha. This doesn't need outsourced recourses for sound.

Some PA mixers and AV receivers also have been launched.

## HARMAN LIVE ARENA:

### Could you tell us about your act and take us through your set-list?

**Taufiq Quereshi:** Mumbai Stamp is band that performs using trash material – like bins and buckets. The compositions come from the tabla and the mridangam and that's what we define on these instruments. We will play 3 pieces – the first piece is called Drum Line, which is a very syncopated piece. The second piece features a lot of vocal percussion and a Djembe solo. The third piece is called Ta Dha. Ta Dha is a bol and it gives me a very grand feeling.

**Adil Manuel:** The Adil Manuel Collective is a funk, RnB collective, leaning towards a 70's sound with vocal harmonies, two keyboard parts involving piano and electric piano sounds and horns. We're going to play a mix of some of my material and some RnB, funk and neo-soul.

**Daira:** We played two songs from our first album – Meri Soch and Maya and the rest from our third album, which is yet to be released.

### What are your thoughts on the Harman sound?

**Taufiq Quereshi:** Artist performance depends a lot on good sound and microphones are very important to capture the sound of the percussion instruments that we play. I do a lot of vocal textures and the mic has to catch all the right sounds. The mic itself is so good, that the sound guy doesn't have to do much on the EQ settings. Harman's AKG's are designed to capture the right sounds

**Adil Manuel:** The people at Harman are very supportive and really understand artist needs. Sound was great here, it was a very big, live sound and hence our approach as a band was to sound tighter, crisper and louder than usual, because of the size of it all.

**Mitali Khargonkar:** I was madly excited to perform at the Harman Live Arena. The sound, the lights, the audience – it was a dream concert. An artist needs good lights and good sound and we had the best.

### Could you tell us about some of your upcoming projects this year?

**Adil Manuel:** I'm just going to get a big studio, kidnap these guys and record. I think we'll record in June. The vibe is great and I want to strike while the iron is hot. I really want to push this in the festival space as well.

**Daira:** We're done recording our third album and we're planning to release it by around the end of September.

### What advice would you give upcoming musicians?

**Taufiq Quereshi:** As a musician, you need to be like water - whatever color you put water in, it becomes that color. You need to be so good that no matter what music you're playing, you should just be able to gel into it. Keep yourself as clear and transparent as water.

**Adil Manuel:** Believe in yourself; don't be shifty. It will pay off if you stick around.

**Sheldon D'Silva and Ravi Chary:** Make sure your basics are very strong and listen to a lot of music. Indian musicians should listen to western music and vice versa. This increases that palette which you can choose from while making music. Keep an open mind and promote each other. We need to create a strong community because sometimes we are fighting a bigger system that is not interested in what we're doing.

**Daira:** Stop doing covers and keep making as much original music as you can, as that's the only thing that will stay with you. Money may not come but there are other things you can do to make money.

**Mitali Khargonkar:** Some patience, effort and consistency is badly required if young musicians want to pursue music professionally.

It's safe to say that both the live entertainment spaces at the expo this year witnessed some spectacular acts and their sound was enhanced by some equally impressive gear.





# PALM EXPO 2018

## NUMBERS AND MORE

The 18th edition of the Palm Expo, which took place between 31st May and 2nd June at the Bombay Exhibition Centre got off to a prosperous start. With people queuing up for registrations and exhibitors setting up their stalls, the exhibition space was filled to the brim even before doors officially opened up. Live music enthusiasts waited patiently at both – the Yamaha Stage and the Harman Live Arena for their favorite artists to take the stage.

### SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS:

- 23,436 unique visitors from across the country
- Unique visitor numbers established an increase of 20% from last year.
- Increase in percentage of trade visitors from B and C tier towns of India.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

**No Sound Policy:** Both the halls created a favorable business environment, thanks to a strict no-sound policy enforced by the organizers. This was well appreciated by global media and exhibitors as well.

**The Palm DJ Championship 2018:** The PALM DJ Championship 2018 Finale witnessed 10 talented DJs from different cities across the country. Generous prize partners – Reloop, Akai, Alesis, Ali Merchant, MX, Numark, Roland and TSM in association with Point Blank, put up DJ consoles, mixers, headphones, synths, DJ Courses and more similar prizes to be shared between the top 10. DJ Braden from Mumbai won the sought-after championship title.

### IRAA (Indian Recording Arts Academy Awards):

The IRAA honors excellence in sound recording and audio

production. This year, India's renowned composer A.R. Rahman presented the award for Life Time Achievement in Sound Recording to his lifelong sound engineer, H. Sridhar.

### Palm Sound & Light Awards:

The 8th consecutive Palm Sound and Light Awards honored top live sound professionals who did outstanding work in 2017-2018.

### Palm Conference and Seminar Program:

It took place in the International Lounge of Hall 1 and covered three specific topics – Stage Sound & Light, Audiovisual and Music Production, across the three days of the show. The aim was to facilitate exchange of creative ideas and knowledge as well as deliver business education.

### Palm Soundscape Program:

This covered topics like big stage sound, lights & visuals, festival and tours, royalties, artiste management, repertoire & publishing, Denon workshops and discussions on psy-trance.

### Live Demo Qubes:

This featured brands like Bose, Electrovoice, LAX, RCF and DB technologies.

The success of Palm Expo 2018 can be summed up in the words of Anil Chopra, Director, Palm Expo 2018. He said, "Reputed brands globally define PALM as a top destination to test product performance in a highly advanced market place adopting latest technology and features. PALM leads in establishing new product viability in guaranteed exposure to probably the largest community of highly experienced professionals in pro audio and AV anywhere in the world evaluating new product purchase. We deliver business at the show year on year."





# PALM EXPO 2018

## PRODUCT SHOUT-OUT!

As we dove into an ocean of microphones, studio monitors, huge PA systems, mixers, MIDI controllers and more at the 2018 PALM expo, we have been delightfully overwhelmed by the wide range of products showcased at the event. We've managed to narrow down the list to some of the most interesting and innovative products that caught our fancy at the expo.



### **Amphon One15 5.25" Passive Monitors**

Personally, these might be the best pair of monitors that I've had the pleasure of laying ears on. The sheer amount of depth and detail that I could hear on the Miles Davis classic, "Freddie Freeloader", had me questioning my understanding of "good sound". The 5.25" woofers provided a surprisingly

tight low end and the detail in the mid-range is unparalleled. The design of these speakers are very practical and meticulously well thought through. The One15's sealed cabinet design results in a dramatic improvement in midrange resolution and bass accuracy, while producing a more honest translation of the music in a room. Amphon's rear-mounted passive radiator moves in perfect synchronization with the front woofer, ensuring that the distance from the front of the cabinet to the rear is always the same so that the balance of air in the cabinet is maintained, resulting in an accurate and tight low-end response. These speakers are pure class and quality while the price tag seems to suggest the same.



### **Avid VENUE S6L**

Irrespective of the requirements of your live production, be assured that the S6L live mixing system from Avid can handle it with ease. With a choice of five surfaces, 48D, 32D, 24D, 24C and 16C, you can now scale a system to meet any production, space, or budget requirement. Paired with the 144-channel engine E6L-144 engine's state-of-the-art real-time processing, the S6L is an absolute beast. The E6L-144 engine handles all routing, channel, and mixing functions for maximum stability and power, while its HDX-powered DSP engine manages all AAX plug-in processing, with full automatic delay compensation resulting in super-low latency. The S6L unified platform delivers 100% hardware, software, and show file compatibility across the entire line, enabling you to swap control surface, engine, and I/O components in and out based on the requirements of the job at hand. Features such as Waves SoundGrid integration and creating a Pro Tools session automatically from your current VENUE show file for live recording is the cherry on this massive cake.





### Arturia DrumBrute

For the analog junkies that are looking for a drum machine with that true analog sound, look no further! The Arturia DrumBrute machine with its 17 analog drum sound generators and a plethora of hands-on controls offers a one-stop solution for all of your percussive needs, especially for genres such as hip-hop, electronica, house, etc. The Steiner-Parker output filter enables

great sounding HPF or LPF sweeps and can be bypassed with a single button press. The DrumBrute is a great addition to your existing setup as it connects to all your gear with USB, MIDI, and Clock I/O. Features such as the 64-step drum sequencer, a polyrhythmic (you can make sequences of different lengths), step-repeat glitch machine and the sequence looper make the Arturia DrumBrute a formidable production tool as well as an amazing instrument.



### Bose Professional Showmatch DeltaQ Array System

At Bose's Demo Qube, the new Showmatch systems were being demonstrated as a testament to the fact that Bose is stepping backing into the PA systems market. The new DeltaQ technology design allows directivity, or "Q," to vary with each array module, directing more sound to the audience and less to walls and floors. The SM5, SM10, or SM20 modules vary in vertical coverage and allow you to form Delta-Q arrays which function much more efficiently than the conventional J-Array or constant curvature arrangements. Paired with the SMS118 subwoofers, the Showmatch sounded clear and well-rounded.



### IA Stands

This Mumbai-based company focuses solely in manufacturing of stands. But unlike conventional stands that serve a single purpose, the products they design are completely modular and multi-purpose. Their innovative concept of Stand + Mount approach gives you complete freedom to mix and match the mounts and stands according to your requirements and application.



### Moog Mother-32 Semi-Modular Eurorack Analog Synthesizer and Step Sequencer

Moog combines the vintage analog sound with one of the best modern tech to create a powerful synthesizer, the Moog Mother-32. With switchable lowpass and highpass Moog ladder filters, a voltage-controlled 32-step sequencer for self-contained programming and a 32-point 3.5mm patchbay for interconnectivity with other modules and extended synthesis capabilities, the Mother-32 packs quite the punch. An interesting feature in this unit is that you can route most of the Mother-32's modulation sources via mini toggle switches, without the need for using patch cables. While, the first semi-modular tabletop and Eurorack synthesizer from Moog leverages modern sequencing and MIDI control options, it still retains its fat analog sound from the classic Moog oscillators.



### QSC TouchMix

If what you're looking for in a mixer is simplicity, a compact design, without having to sacrifice on the quality or the sound, then the QSC

TouchMix series of mixers are what you're looking for. Available in the TouchMix-8, 16 and 30 Pro variants, these mixers are aimed at producers, musicians and small venue owners who aim at getting that "big console" sound and control. In terms of design, it is quite interesting to see a mixer without faders, instead a touch-screen display that lets you adjust the faders. The mixer also has a "Simple mode" that allows beginners to access built pre-sets that helps them make the best of the mixer's abilities. Features such as the essential effects, mobile app control and DAW integration make the QSC TouchMix mixers attractive to professionals and beginners alike.