

BROTO ROY QUARTET

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BROTO ROY QUARTET BIO



An American by naturalization, tablaist-composer Broto Roy is Indian by heritage. The Broto Roy Quartet embodies the confluence of two musical streams – traditional ragas and progressive jazz. While he plays tabla – Indian drums – and composes all the music, Broto’s groups including his Sextet employ eastern instruments like sitar with its related eastern sonorities as well as jazz rhythms and improvisation. The Washington Post described Broto’s music as “Spiritual and visceral”. His Broto Roy Quartet has two releases on the Buzkhashi label. The music both familiar and exotic, is mesmerizing. The lineup is Broto Roy on tabla, Bruce Swaim, sax & flute, Scott Ambush, bass and Indro Roy Chowdhury, sitar.

At age 6, Broto began his life-long study and practice of the world’s most sophisticated system of rhythm as embodied in the tabla drums. The playing technique is complex and involves extensive use of the fingers and palms in various configurations to create a wide variety of different sounds and rhythms, represented by mnemonic syllables which constitute the language of the drums. Oral recitation of compositions within a rhythmic cycle is the teaching method. Broto came to the USA at age 17 and it was during his college days at William & Mary that he began composing and recording his own brand of music which he called “Raga-Jazz”; combining the two greatest systems of music: the Western and the Indian.

His mastery over the complex, formalized rhythms of his native India combined with his deep appreciation and understanding of the Jazz idiom led the Washington Post to declare his music “spiritual and visceral”. He was Artist in Residence at the Kennedy Center’s inauguration of their Millennium Stage as well as later shows at that venue

and many others. His CD *“Total Immersion”* is only the second live recording sanctioned by the [Kennedy Center](#) for public release (the first was by Pavarotti). Broto’s debut CD *“American Raga”* was carried aboard the International Space Station by the world’s first space tourist, Dennis Tito, who played it as he orbited the earth. The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities awarded him their “Master & Apprentice” grant to teach tabla to an apprentice. His Broto Roy Quartet released *“All Barriers Fall”* in May 2018. Their first CD *“Ancient Algorithms”* was released in 2015. He has 7 other releases.

BROTO ROY REVIEWS

“Indo-Jazz Fusion from Washington DC” “Fascinating interplay.”
[World Music Central](#)

“Always refreshing, tablas and the glee of ragas in jazz.” - [ALL ABOUT JAZZ](#)

“Spiritual” – [Fairfax Times](#)

“Spiritual & visceral.” – Mike Joyce, [Washington Post](#)

“Hindu Legend in a Mix of Indian and Western Musical Styles” – [Dallas Morning News](#)

“Master musician..pure honey” – Times of India

“Exceptional contributions...the young South Asian percussionist Broto Roy, an accomplished navigator of a range of multi-directional pathways between East and West.” - [Smithsonian Institution](#)

“...Roy’s languid and, yes, celestial ragas are a perfect accompaniment.” –
[Washington CityPaper](#)