

## The World's Only Global Musical Instrument Museum

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Spice Up Your Weekend at MIM's Experience India April 16 & 17**

*Free activities and performances with paid museum admission*

**PHOENIX (March 29, 2016)** Immerse yourself in East Indian music and culture at the [Musical Instrument Museum's](#) (MIM) fourth annual "[Experience India](#)" event on April 16 and 17! Come to MIM and enjoy musical and dance performances and hands-on activities; try henna body art; and purchase delicious India-inspired food items at Café Allegro.

The morning will feature a classical *bharata-nāṭyam* dance performance by the students of the Sampradaya Dance of India. Internationally renowned artist Nita Mallya directs her students to perform with the style and grace of this South Indian dance form. *Bharata-nāṭyam* dance is composed of complicated counter rhythms created by the feet while the face and hands tell a story. Mallya and her dancers will be accompanied by traditional Indian vocalists as well as instrumentalists on the *mṛḍaṅgam* drum and the *vīṇā*, adding to the energy of this performance.

The afternoon will highlight two first-time ever performances at MIM. Under the direction of local artist Rajul Shah, students of the Padma School of Odissi Dance will be performing one of India's oldest surviving dance forms. Also known as *orissi*, *odissi* is one of the eight classical dance forms in India. "Experience India" will also incorporate for the first time a sitar performance by Seema Gulati. Accompanied on tabla by Jyoti Prakash, Gulati provides a captivating performance in the North Indian style of Hindustani classical music.

During the event, guests will be able to try traditional instruments of India for themselves, including the *vīṇā*, an iconic stringed instrument with a rich history; the harmonium, a keyboard instrument similar to an organ; and tabla drums. Tempe artist Neelam Sandesara of the Henna Shoppe will be at MIM from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. to offer guests a chance to serve as a human canvas for the traditional Indian henna body art, a natural, brown-tinted dye that lasts up to three weeks.

MIM's award-winning Café Allegro has put together a delicious Indian-inspired menu for guests to purchase. The menu includes savory dishes such as: a black chickpea curry with garam masala, chilies, and tomato; red lentil soup with lentils, ginger, and cayenne; *rogan josh* with marinated lamb, saffron, spices, and basmati; Indian butter chicken with ginger, cumin, cream, and naan; mango lassi; and Indian inspired sweets.

"This year's 'Experience India' event will welcome back familiar artists with new performances as well as introduce talented dancers and musicians who will be taking part in MIM's celebration for the first time," said Randi Ringnes, MIM's public programs coordinator. "We are excited to collaborate with the local Indian community once again to share the rich music and culture of India that thrives right here in Phoenix."

"Experience India" is supported by the Chandragiri Family and the India Association of Phoenix.

#### **Admission**

General Admission: \$20

Teens (ages 13–19): \$15

Children (ages 4–12): \$10

**The World's Only Global Musical Instrument Museum**

Children 3 and under: Free

**“Experience India” Museum Hours**

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

The Musical Instrument Museum is located at 4725 E. Mayo Boulevard in Phoenix (corner of Tatum and Mayo Boulevards, just south of Loop 101). For general museum information and a full schedule of events, visit [MIM.org](http://MIM.org) or call 480.478.6000.

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**About MIM**

The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) enriches our world by collecting, preserving, and making accessible an astonishing variety of musical instruments and performance videos from every country in the world. MIM offers guests a welcoming, and fun experience, incomparable interactive technology, dynamic programming and exceptional musical performances. MIM fosters appreciation of the world's diverse cultures by showing how we innovate, adapt, and learn from each other to create music—the language of the soul.

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