

# Farhan Shah & Sufi Oz

## ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

**Management & Promotion contact:**

**Keith Preston [artbeatkp@aol.com](mailto:artbeatkp@aol.com) Mob 0418839264**

[www.farhanshahmusic.com](http://www.farhanshahmusic.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/farhan.shah.7965692>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/farhanshah786>

Instagram : [https://www.instagram.com/farhan\\_shah/](https://www.instagram.com/farhan_shah/)



### **Brief**

Led by Farhan Shah “The Pakistani Pavarotti”, Australia’s Sufi music super-group has created a mesmerizing global sound that both celebrates and innovates the rich traditions and modern appeal of qawwali and Sufi music from South Asia and the Middle East. Womadelaide audiences will delight in their music with it’s strong inspiration drawn from the style and sound of Qawwali maestro, the late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

### **Paragraph**

Drawing from the ages-old Sufi traditional music of Pakistan and the contemporary music scene of Karachi, Farhan Shah has brought his experience of two powerhouses of music to his new home of Australia. Landing on his feet Farhan has drawn together talented artists with an affinity for Sufi music and in some memorable concerts Australian audiences have been blown away with the sheer power of his unique voice, with one leading critic dubbing him the Pakistani Pavarotti”.

But Farhan Shah is more than simply a great voice, not only does he bring the Sufi tradition to the stage with its 800-year tradition but he stands for what that tradition means in the modern world. Tolerance, Respect, Equality, a Meaning of Life, Peace, protection of the Environment and the plight of the individual in a complex world. Now that is a musical tradition!

Farhan has gathered around him a team of experienced musical souls that have this same affinity. Together they have created a new brand of global music. They come from Syria, France, Japan, Ireland, Fiji and call Australia home. Under the banner of ‘SufiOz’ they present a musical entry into the world of Sufi music and it’s powerful mystical message of peace, tolerance and the search for meaning.

### **Quote**

*“The soaring voice of Adelaide resident Farhan Shah, a Pakistani Pavarotti, was borne aloft by a trad-modern ensemble of drums, harmonium, electronic keyboard and guitar.*

*The power of his ecstatic singing, crazy drunk and in love with the divine, was irresistible. His art draws on the centuries-old tradition on qawwali, to which he brings a modern sensibility. But the burning intensity of the music remains, stoking the fire of passionate union with God. The poet Rumi said “seek those who fan your flames” and Farhan Shah is exactly that.”*

*FIVE STARS \*\*\*\*\* Stephen Whittington – The Adelaide Advertiser - February 24 2019*

---

## Videos:

Farhan Shah & SufiOz Live - Community Leaders Iftar 2021 at Adelaide Convention Centre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2WcIlhyox0>

Live at the Nexus Arts Centre in Adelaide 2020 - Adelaide Fringe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9G1VzDJ8Rw>

Popular Pakistani Feature Film Soundtrack (2016)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WthawMedes>

Maula Ya Ali (UNESCO award for best International Collaboration) (2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8czLdUoHAqY>

Haseebi (Collaboration between Adelaide, Karachi & Calgary) (2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUMgnjkJgyE>

Portugal Jubilee Arts Festival - Anthem Composer/Singer (2018)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5h-fccARFs>

---

## Farhan Shah & SufiOz Short Bios

### Farahan Shah & SufiOz

**SufiOz** is Farhan's contemporary Sufi performance group presenting contemporary (ancient/modern) Sufi music mainly Ghazals and Qawwalis featuring classics of the master singers as well as original compositions. The music is a blend of traditional and modern musical instruments and styles merging Sufi music with world music sounds. The group has performed extensively for multicultural communities of Adelaide as well as Nexus Arts, Trinity Church, Private shows, Oz Asia (JLF) Nowruz Festival, Auburn Courthouse, Her Majesty's Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre, Convention Centre, sold out Adelaide Fringe Festival shows and many more music performances in SA.

### Farhan Shah

Farhan Shah is an award-winning renowned singer, composer and music producer. who has performed across the world and also composed music for film, television, and other popular artists in Karachi as well as in Adelaide. Since arriving in Adelaide in 2016 he has



toured for overseas performances, created traditional and fusion Sufi musical groups, performed at major Australian music festivals, developed award winning recording productions and received the Adelaide UNESCO City of Music award for best international music collaboration as well as Global Music Awards for outstanding achievement in sufi & eastern contemporary music. Dubbed the " Pakistani Pavarotti" in Adelaide Advertiser for his phenomenal voice, Shah has played a major role in facilitating cultural understanding between East and West, introducing audiences to the immense beauty and power of Sufi music, tradition and culture.

### **Keith Preston**

Keith is an experienced world music player touring nationally and internationally with Dya Singh (Sikh/Punjab) as well as featuring with SA acts Local Import (Irish/Italian) AMADA (Middle East & Balkan) Shoor Jahan (Bengali) and Moonta Street Eurasian) He plays santoor, guitar, bouzouki and bohdran and is also recognized as an arts manager, events producer, songwriter, puppeteer and theatre writer/director.

### **Alain Vălodze**

Alain is a sought-after master of Flamenco and Classical guitar with a longstanding immersion in a range of world music's. A composer and collaborator, he has performed at major festivals such as Womadelaide, The International Guitar Festival and recently with award-winning first nations music productions.

### **Abdul Nanou**

With extensive experience in Arabic, Hebrew, Indian, Persian, Turkish oriental music styles, Abdul has had the privilege to perform in many famous Middle Eastern theatres, alongside elite Arab musicians. Since moving to Adelaide Abdul has had the pleasure of working and performing with many different communities and leading musicians

Trained in the oriental music style, Abdul has graduated in violin from the Conservatorium of Music at Adelaide University under the careful tutelage of Elizabeth Layton – former Concertmaster of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

### **Satomi Ohnishi**

Satomi Ohnishi is a highly respected jazz percussionist who originally trained in Japan and has worked with many leading music acts and projects in Adelaide. She is also a key member of the Asian Ensemble San Oreshi (Chinese jazz instrumentals) and has many collaborations with world, folk, classical and jazz music events and performances.

### **Ravi Madhawan**

From Fiji originally and now residing in Melbourne, Ravi is steeped in the worlds of Hindustani classical & qawwali music. He is a great player of qawwali tabla and harmonium as well as contributing on keyboards and vocals. He works as a music teacher and collaborator with a range of musicians and genres. Ravi has had the honor in accompanying multiple Indian classical singers and instrumentalists. He performs across both fusion and traditional qawwali art forms.

### **Shiva Chandiron**

Shiva began tabla playing at the age of three followed by harmonium and Indian Classical vocals. Introduced to qawwali and Sufi music at the age of 7 he is a follower of the music of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and the beautiful union of music technique and spiritual meaning that defines qawwali and Sufi music. Music and spirituality continue to be his passion and he is focused on creating and performing devotional music.

## Shiva Karan

Shiva is an accomplished devotional singer in Indian and Sufi music. His inspiration comes from the qawwali traditions of the famous Pakistani Sufi singers such as The Sabri Brothers and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.

---

## Farhan Shah Full Bio

Farhan Shah – The Sufi Music Phenomenon!

Drawing from the ages-old Sufi traditional music of Pakistan and the contemporary music scene of Karachi, Farhan Shah has brought his experience of two powerhouses of music to his new home of Australia. Landing on his feet Farhan has drawn together talented artists with an affinity for Sufi music and in some memorable concerts Australian audiences have been blown away with the sheer power of his unique voice, with one leading critic dubbing him the Pakistani Pavarotti”.

But Farhan Shah is more than simply a great voice, not only does he bring the Sufi tradition to the stage with its 800-year tradition, but he stands for what that tradition means in the modern world... Tolerance, Respect, Equality, a Meaning of Life, Peace, protection of the Environment and the plight of the individual in a complex world. Now that is a musical tradition!

Farhan has gathered around him a team of experienced musical souls that have this same affinity... They come from Syria, France, Japan, Ireland, Fiji and call Australia home. Under the banner of ‘SufiOz’ they present a musical entry into the world of Sufi music and it’s powerful mystical message.

Farhan has performed in Canada, London, Dubai, Portugal, Pakistan, New Zealand and around Australia. He has also headed a traditional qawwali group to tour around Australasia to much acclaim.

He has toured to Woodford Folk Festival (QLD), Sydney Sacred Music Festival (NSW), Festival of The Voice (WA) Jaipur Literature Festival @ Oz Asia (SA), Private & Public ticketed concerts in Melbourne, Darwin & Sydney and presented three acclaimed Adelaide Fringe Festival seasons as well as several memorable concerts in Adelaide.

In 2020 Farhan was awarded the UNESCO Adelaide City of Music Award for best international collaboration for his recording/video ‘Maula Ya Ali’ (Aust/Pakistan) and has been recognized as a major player in SA’s music industry with grants award for projects, new compositions and travel to festivals. His recent collaboration ‘Haseebi’ (Adelaide, Karachi /Calgary) has received lot of international attention as well as Global Music Award for Outstanding Achievement in Sufi Contemporary Music. Farhan continues to work with the Pakistani and Indian communities in Australia to present concerts for the local communities as well.

As a composer and collaborator Farhan has also engaged in musical collaborations with the Migrant Resource Centre (Rumi) Persian Cultural Association (Silk Road Caravanserai concert) and Adelaide Festival Centre resulting in major concert performances at Her Majesty’s Theatre and Adelaide Festival Centre. Supported by Nexus Arts Adelaide he is

one of the lead singer of a new multicultural Nexus Arts Orchestra and also working on a project "Floods of Fire" with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

---

For bunch of mystics, the Sufis certainly know how to throw a party.

QUOTE:

*"The soaring voice of Adelaide resident Farhan Shah, a Pakistani Pavarotti, was borne aloft by a trad-modern ensemble of drums, harmonium, electronic keyboard and guitar.*

*The power of his ecstatic singing, crazy drunk and in love with the divine, was irresistible. His art draws on the centuries-old tradition on qawwali, to which he brings a modern sensibility.*

*But the burning intensity of the music remains, stoking the fire of passionate union with God. The poet Rumi said "seek those who fan your flames" and Farhan Shah is exactly that."*

*Stephen Whittington – The Adelaide Advertiser February 24 2019*