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*A South Indian classical musician undergoes a gradual metamorphosis from living half his life in Canada. He develops new instruments to accommodate his evolving drumming techniques and in the process has developed a personal vocabulary...and continues to do so. His is the story of Before and After, Here and There, Inventing the Future, the same Old Future where the New meets the Old and the Old sees itself in the New.*

### ***Background***

Ganesh Anandan studied the South Indian Carnatic flute for 7 years and the Mrdangam, a percussion instrument for 7 years in Bangalore city, India until he moved to Canada in 1976. In Canada at 22, he started studying western percussion notation and had a variety of workshops. He was part of the Université de Montréal Gamelan orchestra for a year and was highly influenced by the arrangements of the Gamelan. He was awarded several grants from the Canada Arts Council and Le Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Quebec for further studies in India and artistic projects.

### ***Instrument building***

In the 1980's he heard the music of the contemporary composer Harry Partch which shocked and inspired him to look at the Indian tuning system. And in 1995 he did an interdisciplinary project called Espace Shruti with French sculptor Pascal Dufaux. In this project he built percussion instruments based on the Indian 22 Shruti system (22 interval octave) while Pascal built a huge metal sound architecture which was like a resonator to house the instruments. A percussion duo led by Ganesh performed inside the "architecture sonore". The first instrument he built was the Metallophone made of aluminum plates and is tuned to the Indian 22 shruti octave with a wooden resonator box case. It is played with mallets and sticks with a muting technique inspired by Gamelan. Other instruments followed including the Bamboophone, Tubeophone, Shruti Santoor, Tuned Wood blocks and the Shruti Marimba (please see documentation on his web site). In 2002, Ganesh had the idea of combining a Santoor (the asian hammer dulcimer) and an electric prepared guitar into one instrument. The first 6 string prototype was built and later he commissioned a luthier to build a 12 string model (6 guitar & 6 bass strings), he called the instruments Shruti Stick. They are both small solid bodied, electric instruments which are positioned

horizontally on individual small stands allowing the player to play the instruments rhythmically with thin sticks, a bow, metal slides and other objects. The scales and intervals are achieved by tuning the strings with high tension clips, mobile bridges and other objects. The resulting "palette of sounds" has a wide range with many sonic possibilities (see solo cd Double Identity, 2006).

### ***Transposed Carnatic drumming techniques***

In Canada, Ganesh started transposing the Carnatic drumming vocabulary and techniques to other instruments and alternative surfaces such as frame drums, cajon and built objects. He wrote an educational book and dvd concerning these ideas and techniques called Solkattu, South Indian drumming techniques for Bodhran (available at selected outlets & web site)

### ***On Improvisation and new instruments***

In India Ganesh studied melodic and rhythmic improvisation in the Carnatic music tradition. After moving to Canada he was exposed and influenced by other types of improvisation namely jazz and free improvisation which widened his ears further. In the 1990's he became involved with modern improvised music in Montreal namely with Malcolm Goldstein and Rainer Wiens with whom he formed a trio. They still perform and have recorded a cd called Speaking in Tongues (Ambiances Magnetique). With a grant from The Canada Arts Council he developed different types of "Comprovisation sketches" (composition & improvisation) for a variety of instrumentists.

### ***Projects and collaborations***

Since 1987 Ganesh has lived in Montreal and worked with a variety of International artists and interdisciplinary projects including: Ensemble Modern (Frankfurt) for whom he wrote a piece in 2005 with tours in Germany & Italy and a new tour planned in the Fall 2008, Espace Shruti (Interdisciplinary project with French sculptor Pascal Dufaux), Omar Sosa quintet, Carlo Rizzo (Italy), Paolo Angeli (Italy), Gavino Murga (Italy), Conny Bauer (Germany), Malcolm Goldstein (USA), Glen Velez, (USA), Bob Brozman (USA), Glen Moore (USA), Ramesh Shotham (India/Germany), Karnataka College of Percussion (Bangalore, India), Debasish Bhattacharya (India), Hideo Arai (dance/Tokyo). In Canada: Ramasutra (Ram Borcar), SoCalled (Josh Dolgin), Tanya Taguk, Nouveau Theatre Experimental (Daniel Briere & Alexis Martin), Robert Lepage, Roger Sinha (dance), Margie Gillis (choreographer), among others.

***He has been commissioned to do film music, theatre and dance projects.***