



## **British Council and PRS Foundation announce new music creator residency in the United Arab Emirates to coincide with the UK/UAE Year of Creative Collaboration**

**Musician Sarathy Korwar was selected from a strong shortlist, nominated by independent experts, to undertake the residency in the United Arab Emirates.**

The residency will take place in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The immersive programme will allow Sarathy Korwar to work in collaboration with local partners to create new music and reach a new international audience. While in the UAE he will work with organisations including The Fridge, an independent promoter and agency who run live and studio space; and The Arts Center at New York University Abu Dhabi. Both will provide local market intelligence and an essential gateway into the Dubai and Abu Dhabi scenes.

The residency will afford opportunities for performance, collaboration with local artists, insights into local culture and society, and introductions to influential local and regional music contacts.

Born in the US, Sarathy Korwar grew up in Ahmedabad and Chennai in India. He began playing tabla aged 10 but was drawn to the American music that he heard on the radio.

At 17 Sarathy studied tabla under the tutelage of Rajeev Devasthali, translating his skills to the Western drum kit and playing as a session musician. He then moved to London, where he trained as a classical tabla player under the guidance of Sanju Sahai and graduated with a MMus in Performance from SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies).

In 2015 Sarathy was awarded the Steve Reid Innovation Award to make his debut album. The award included a talent development bursary from PRS Foundation and mentoring from the Steve Reid Foundation's trustees: Four Tet, Floating Points, Gilles Peterson, Koreless and Nick Woodmansey (Emanative). His debut album 'Day To Day' fuses traditional folk music of the Sidi community in India (combining East African, Sufi and Indian influences) with jazz and electronics.

The UK/UAE residency takes place following the success of the British Council and PRS Foundation's Musicians in Residence China programme, which began in 2011 and has so far seen musicians including Imogen Heap, Oliver Coates and Mira Calix take part. Musician in Residence UK/UAE is a one-off initiative for 2017.

**Sarathy Korwar said:** *"I feel incredibly honoured and grateful for this opportunity to spend time collaborating with musicians/artists in the UAE. I'm looking forward to creating new music that embraces a complex and composite identity and challenges pre-existing ideas of traditional contemporary music".*

**Cathy Graham, Director of Music at the British Council said:** *"I'm delighted to be extending our residency programme with PRS Foundation into more countries. We're thrilled*

*to be working with the very talented Sarathy, who will be exploring the UAE in all its tradition and modernity, and connecting with its diverse communities. We look forward to experiencing Dubai and Abu Dhabi culture through his eyes, ears and new music."*

**Vanessa Reed, Chief Executive of PRS Foundation** said, *"Congratulations to Sarathy Korwar on being selected for this new residency in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. This is a unique opportunity for Sarathy to create music with communities he may not otherwise have been able to collaborate with. I very much looking forward to hearing the outcomes from the residency and following the impact it has on the next phase of Sarathy's career."*

**Bill Bragin, Executive Artistic Director at The Arts Center at New York University Abu Dhabi** said: *"The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi is committed to presenting world class artists who explore cross-genre and cross-cultural hybrids, and Sarathy Korwar is exactly the kind of musical explorer we embrace. His commitment to musical invention by drawing on deep musical heritages and putting them in conversation with one another speaks to the polyglot nature of both NYUAD and the UAE as a whole. We look forward to him being a presence on campus to connect with our students, as well as on our stages to connect with our public audiences."*

The creative economy is a rapidly growing sector in the Emirates. Building on this the programme of the UK/UAE 2017 Year of Creative Collaboration, developed by the British Council alongside a wide range of British and Emirati partners, will be rich in cultural activities featuring events and projects in the arts, literature, education, society, sport, science and trade.

The season's year-long programme will showcase the diverse talent in both countries, igniting new cross-cultural collaborations and deepening the opportunity for mutually beneficial partnerships across culture, business and society.

**ENDS**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **For more information visit**

British Council Music: <http://music.britishcouncil.org/>  
<http://www.sarathykorwar.com/>

### **Partner information**

#### **The Fridge @thefridgedubai**

Established in 2007, The Fridge develops, manages and promotes over 3, 000 performances annually, from many of the UAE's most iconic events to private functions and daily hotel residencies. The Fridge team maintains an active engagement with the growing music and performing arts scene throughout the region. The Al Quoz based warehouse functions as the perfect platform to showcase fresh and exciting performers through curated programming such as The Fridge Concert Series.

#### **The Arts Centre at New York University Abu Dhabi @NYUADArtsCenter**

Presenting music, theater, dance, film and interdisciplinary performances that defy definition, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi aspires to be an internationally renowned performing arts center that presents distinguished professional artists from around the world alongside student, faculty, and community productions. The Arts Center draws on the resources of

NYUAD to create a dynamic space for research, investigation, and the active pursuit of knowledge and wisdom for audiences as well as visiting artists.

### **About UK/UAE 2017**

UK/UAE 2017 is a year of creative collaboration and cultural exchange between the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates, organised by the British Council, the UK's international organisation for education and culture, under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and HRH The Prince of Wales.

The purpose of UK/UAE 2017 is to celebrate the long-standing relationship between the UK and the UAE, giving it greater focus, depth and contemporary relevance. Throughout 2017, the British Council will collaborate with a wide range of British and Emirati partners to create a diverse programme that spans the arts, literature, education, society, sport, science and trade. Through exploring the ways in which our respective cultural heritage and contemporary creative expression inspires innovation in all sectors and all areas of society, UK/UAE 2017 will strengthen cultural and economic ties between the two nations and identify major opportunities for future collaboration on both sides.

To stay up-to-date with the latest news and programme, please visit the British Council's UAE website [www.britishcouncil.ae/en/uk-uae-2017](http://www.britishcouncil.ae/en/uk-uae-2017) or follow the social media channels on Facebook | Instagram | Twitter.

For further information and enquiries, please contact [Hannah.Henderson@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Hannah.Henderson@britishcouncil.org).

### **About PRS Foundation**

PRS Foundation is the UK's leading charitable funder of new music and talent development across all genres. Since 2000 PRS for Music Foundation has given more than £23.6 million to over 5,300 new music initiatives by awarding grants and leading partnership programmes that support music sector development. Widely respected as an adventurous and proactive funding body, PRS Foundation supports an exceptional range of new music activity – from composer residencies and commissions to festivals and showcases in the UK and overseas.

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