BRAVO Imagine Concert
February 7, 2020 at the Ojai Valley School’s Greenberg Center

Sponsored by Ojai Valley School--Barbara Barnard Smith Fund of the Ventura County Community Foundation, and the Ojai Music Festival

Sandhi Indian Ensemble:
Dave Cipriani, Indian Slide Guitar
John Stephens, Sarod
Leonice Shinneman, Tabla, Pakhawaj, Tavil (Indian Hand Percussion)

Sandhi Indian Ensemble is made up of 3 outstanding graduates of the California Institute of the Arts North Indian Music Program who want to share their love of this deep and exciting music. The members are busy performers, recording artists and teachers in the Ojai and LA area.

Dave Cipriani is one of the leading exponents of Indian Slide Guitar in America, having previously studied under Indian Slide guitar pioneer Pandit Barun Kumar Pal.
Indian Slide Guitar

The Indian Slide Guitar is a relatively new instrument created by modifying the Hawaiian steel guitar and arch top Jazz guitar. It first came about when a Hawaiian musician by the name of Tau Moe took up a residency at the Taj hotel in Calcutta during the 1940s. The Hawaiian steel guitar is played flat on one’s lap with a steel bar as a slide and fingerpicks. The strings are raised up off of the fret board so as to allow the player to slide freely.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xexm-6lZIWO (4.5 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cuZHRJhoElw (6 minutes)

Dave Cipriani & John Stephens met as students and continue to study under Ustad Aashish Khan, grandson of legendary Baba Allaudin Khan, the guru of Ravi Shankar and Ali Akbar Khan.

John Stephens, playing Sarod, is also an accomplished sitar and surbahar (bass sitar) performer, and has authored articles on Indian music and transcribed Ustad Aashish Khan’s compositions and authored the introduction and explanatory text for a newly published book, Sangeet: Legacy of the Maihar Gharana.
The sarod is a stringed instrument, used mainly in Hindustani music on the Indian subcontinent. Along with the sitar, it is among the most popular and prominent instruments. The sarod is known for a deep, weighty, introspective sound, in contrast with the sweet texture of the sitar, with sympathetic strings that give it a resonant, reverberant quality. It is a fretless instrument able to produce the continuous slides between notes known as meend (glissandi) (sliding sounds), which are important in Indian music. The word sarod roughly translates to "beautiful sound" or "melody" in Persian, one of the many languages spoken in Afghanistan.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDr33PBGpto (2 minutes)

Leonice Shinneman is recognized as the foremost American disciple of the legendary North Indian tabla and pakhawaj master Pandit Taranath Rao and was also formerly on the faculty at CalArts.
Tabla

The tabla consists of two single-headed, barrel-shaped small drums of slightly different size and shape: The *daya tabla* is played by the musician's right hand. The *baya tabla* is a bit bigger and deep kettledrum shaped. Each is made of hollowed out wood or clay or brass, the *daya* drum laced with hoops, thongs and wooden dowels on its sides. The dowels and hoops are used to tighten the tension of the membrane. The *baya* construction and tuning is about a fifth to an octave below that of the *daya* drum. The musician uses his hand's heel pressure to change the pitch and tone color of each drum during a performance.

It has been a particularly important instrument in Hindustani classical music since the 18th century, and remains in use in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. 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. The tabla is also an important instrument in the bhakti devotional traditions of Hinduism and Sikhism, such as during *bhajan* and *kirtan* singing.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r31oe7Sm0vl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r31oe7Sm0vl) (4 minutes)
The pakhawaj is a barrel-shaped, two-headed drum, originating from the Indian subcontinent. The pakhawaj has a low, mellow tone, very rich in harmonics. Set horizontally on a cushion in front of the drummer's crossed leg, the larger bass-skin is played with the left hand, the treble skin by the right hand. The bass face is smeared with wet wheat dough, a batter of flour and water, which is the cause of the vivid bass sound produced.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alb_vM7_XE0 (3 minutes)
The tavil consists of a cylindrical shell hollowed out of a solid block of jackfruit wood. Layers of animal skin (water buffalo or goat) are stretched across the two sides of the shell using hemp hoops attached to the shell.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3q7-g6AKEo (2.5 minutes)