

RED BARAAT

Bhangra | Funk | Dhol | Smash | Brass

You've seen them jam with Ed Sheeran in the Netflix show "One Shot" and heard them on the song "Ai Miei Amici" with Italian Superstar, Jovanotti. The band's 2017 NPR Tiny Desk Concert is touted as the #8 top performance of all time by New York Magazine and their 2025 album, *Bhangra Rangeela* (Sinj Records), confirms they are one of most vital bands out there. **Red Baraat** is a pioneering band from Brooklyn, New York. Conceived by dhol player Sunny Jain, the group has drawn worldwide praise for its singular sound, a merging of hard driving Punjabi rhythms with elements of hip-hop, jazz and raw punk energy. The band's live shows are an unparalleled collision of virtuosity, party, and joy, as Red Baraat reminds us that we are truly all in this together.

"The best party band in years" – National Public Radio (NPR)

Red Baraat has toured the globe the past 16 years with stops at Bonnaroo, Austin City Limits, Bumbershoot, New Orleans Jazz Fest, Peter Gabriel's WOMAD festivals (Australia, New Zealand, Spain, UK), Dubai World Expo 2021, just to name a few. Along the way they sold out rooms as diverse as the Luxembourg Philharmonic and the New York City's legendary rock club Bowery Ballroom, and performed at the request of The White House (Obama), TED, London Olympic Games, David Byrne, Padma Lakshmi and recent NYC Mayor-elect, Zohran Mamdani. Red Baraat have released 7 albums with numerous accolades from major media outlets and ranked in top 10 lists on Billboard, Apple Music and World Music Charts Europe.

The band's debut release, *Chaal Baby* (2010) set the band on a whirlwind USA tour as well as performances at Montreal Jazz Festival, Molde International Jazz Festival and opening for Gil-Scot Heron and Sharon Jones at the Pori Jazz Festival. They caught the ears of international audiences and in 2012, the band debuted in the UK with performances at Bestival, Sfinks Festival, The Barbican and closing ceremony for the Paralympics at Trafalgar Square. The Guardian (UK) said the band's music brought a "punk spirit." Shortly thereafter, Red Baraat was invited to perform at the prestigious WOMEX showcase in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Then the release of Red Baraat's 2nd album in 2013, *Shruggy Ji*, debuted at #1 on the Billboard World Music charts and propelled the band on a nonstop world tour that only halted in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. There are too many performances to recount, but they clock in at over 800 clubs and festivals worldwide. One special moment of note was in 2015 at Peter Gabriel's WOMAD festival in UK. The band magically stopped a 2-day continuous downpour, parted the clouds and brought the sun out as thousands danced in their galoshes.

“This year’s ‘discovery’, though, was Red Baraat, a cacophonous bhangra funk band from Brooklyn. Think Punjabi weddings, Delhi street brass bands, modern jazz and rock.”

— THE TELEGRAPH (UK)

Red Baraat’s 2018 album release, “Sound The People”, hit the top 10 on the World Music Charts Europe and was heralded in the US as the anthem soundtrack for the South Asian diaspora by US hipster, indie-rock magazine, Stereogum:

“The album is full of moments that hit with the force of a spiritual awakening...The funk, ska-punk, and other American forms that make their way into the music are layered intricately within the same thread work as the ragas on which these songs are pulled from. Each piece is a gesture of cultural harmony, rendering not only genre irrelevant, but the geographic placement of those sounds.”

— STEREOGUM

2018 saw the band touring Kazakhstan, United Arab Emirates, US, Canada and Europe. They headlined the renowned WOMAD Festival in Cáceres, Spain in front of 10,000 people, performed the Vienna Konzerthaus (Philharmonie) in Austria, played their first show in Mexico City at Radical Mestizo Festival, and had the crowd jumping at Rudolstadt Festival in Germany.

“Their infectious rhythms roll over the audience like a hurricane and let the audience breathe only in a short ballad pause.”

— RHEIN MAIN PRESS (GERMANY)

It’s clear that Red Baraat has built a startling history of performances all over the world the last 16 years - communing with their audience in a joyful, near hedonistic celebration of music and dance which, tellingly, draws a crowd even more diverse than the players on stage. The universality of what Red Baraat does is undeniable. And this is no happy accident. It is the product of intention and design. Jain says, “the band...our songs...are addressing the multiplicity of viewpoints,” says Jain. “There’s ‘Zindabad,’ which means ‘Long Live’ in Hindi. In that song, we’re saying that we celebrate life, we celebrate devotion — but we also celebrate agitation and revolution. If we can unite people of all backgrounds and ethnicities to partake in the exuberance of life through the universal language of music, then life is that much sweeter.”

“A Big Band for the World.” – WALL STREET JOURNAL

VIDEOS

NPR Tiny Desk Concert [2017]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgmw41CY1Fo&list=PLA442F1BA9D8C260C>

Red Baraat at The Hamilton, DC [2024]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m31RkAraRNl>

Red Baraat at Worldfest, CA [2023]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUFLUsL7Mkk>

Red Baraat live at Sines Festival, Portugal [2019]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqpiefbqj5k>

Red Baraat live at WOMAD Festival UK [2015]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwpGXg2KaIM&list=PLA442F1BA9D8C260C>

Red Baraat live at Juniata College [2015]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6OjTZBEPwg>

Red Baraat live in New Orleans for Mardi Gras [2013]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kq0v-I9EUM4&list=PLA442F1BA9D8C260C&index=10>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: www.redbaraat.com

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4PXINoUmAk&list=PLA442F1BA9D8C260C>

Instagram: @redbaraat

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/redbaraatband>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/gb/artist/red-baraat/336976137>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/5MMJUQvUcssZPb0noi7ldR>

PRESS

"The best party band in years" - NPR

"New York's Red Baraat delivers an explosion of sound. A frenzy of funk, jazz, hip-hop, and Indian bhangra." - STEREOGUM

"Imagine a New Orleans street band playing Indian Bollywood tunes with a go-go beat — you can't? Then just listen, because your day is about to get better. It's a crazy blast of fun." - NPR, ALL SONGS CONSIDERED

"A knitted blend of poly-rhythmic panache exploring what it means to communicate music between individuals and across cultures." - SPIN MAGAZINE

"A Big Band for the World." - WALL STREET JOURNAL

“There was a raucous finale. The last set belonged to Red Baraat, a Brooklyn brass band that looks to South Asia, pumping out Bollywood tunes and Sufi songs with a crackling beat (from the two headed dhol drum) and the muscle of horns blasting in unison, putting some New York bluster atop faraway roots.” - THE NEW YORK TIMES

“This year’s ‘discovery’, though, was Red Baraat, a cacophonous bhangra funk band from Brooklyn. Think Punjabi weddings, Delhi street brass bands, modern jazz and rock.” – THE TELEGRAPH (WOMAD UK)

“Red Baraat have a studied multi-ethnic cool reminiscent of other New York world fusion acts like Gogol Bordello and Yerba Buena.” – SONGLINES

“A new-breed marching-band music that’s part Punjabi wedding, part New Orleans second line, and all New York.” – BOSTON GLOBE

“Their rep as a party igniter is not exaggerated, with this set highlighting a massive groove machine across selections varied enough to *sustain* the party as the sheer intensity of the execution, particularly in the soloing, and the breadth of instrumentation, can border on the awe-inspiring.” - THEN VINYL DISTRICT

“Red Baraat are New York’s best-loved and probably loudest party band... [Bhangra Pirates is] their most diverse and arguably best album... It’s amazing how many flavors the band have added to their arsenal over the years; count this as an instant contender for best release of 2017.” - NEW YORK MUSIC DAILY

“Red Baraat has been one of the New York music scene’s best-kept secrets.” – NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

“Calling it a party doesn’t quite cut it. But when there’s no room to dance-or march, even that’s probably the best word.” – RELIX

“The open-air rendition of ‘Tunak Tun’ at the Lincoln Center is not just infectious, it’s visual heroin – just watching them make music is a shot of pure adrenalin.” – INDIA CURRENTS

“Favorite Live Shows of 2011” – NPR, ALL SONGS CONSIDERED