

Surrey Civic Theatres Presents An Evening with Ranj Singh

Surrey, BC—IN BRIEF: Surrey Civic Theatres (SCT) is thrilled to announce

[*An Evening with Ranj Singh.*](#)

February 3 | 8pm | \$24

Centre Stage at Surrey City Hall

[Tickets: \\$24](#)



Ranj Singh

JANUARY 2023—Get your tickets! *An Evening with Ranj Singh* is the perfect way to shake off the winter blues! In this lively and entertaining performance, Ranj will play songs from the '60s right through to hits of today, as well as a few originals. Sung in his unique and soulful voice, accompanied by his 12-string guitar, the show will combine sing-along songs, stories, humour, and a subtle blend of East meets West—perfect ingredients for an exceptional night on the town!

Ranj got his start in music in 1983, after a friend took him to a concert—an Indian music performance, which was new for Ranj, as despite his cultural heritage he had been raised on Credence Clearwater Revival and Meatloaf. He said when the curtain went up and he saw the stage full of Indian musicians he felt as if he had been tricked. But he said thirty seconds after the musicians began to play, “That was it, I was hooked.”

After the show his friend asked if he liked the show. When Ranj said he loved it his friend said, “I hear you play guitar...my brother is starting a band, you should come take a look.” And that was the start of Ranj’s musical career.

The friend’s brother was the lead singer of a Punjabi folk band—and Ranj ended up playing with the group for nearly nine years, touring and learning about his culture and Indian music.

In the '90s Ranj was also part of the successful Bhangra rock group Dal-Dil-Vog (DDV). They toured all over India and Ranj says seeing billboards the size of a quarter of a street block all over the downtown of Mumbai was quite the experience. He said, "We were treated like royalty during that five-week tour. It is a highlight of my musical career that I'll never forget."

Nowadays Ranj is a solo act, and pre-pandemic he was performing 200 shows a year, a number he is pleased is on the rise with events happening once again. However, it took Ranj many years to find the courage to chase his dream of being a solo artist. He said, "Even though I have been writing original songs since I was a little kid, before performing solo, I was never the singer in the band. But one day my family gave me a kick in the butt and told me to play and perform all the songs I had written." So Ranj practiced at home and got more comfortable singing.

But he spent six years going to open mics, signing up to perform—then running out of the door at the last minute. Until one day, when he was forty-five years old, Ranj plucked up the courage to perform an original song with a friend—and he has not looked back since. He said, "Now I feel so comfortable up on stage. It's so natural to me and it's so rewarding. Even if just one person in the crowd is moved by or can relate to the music, which means so much...I should have gotten the courage earlier!"

Now at 58 years old Ranj says he is living his dream, as being a musician is his full-time job. He said, "Every day I wake up happy. If I were a dog, you would see my tail wagging!"

Ranj is excited to bring his unique sound back to Surrey Civic Theatres. Although he performed for SCT once before, it was a Digital Stage show during the middle of the pandemic. This time around Ranj is looking forward to sharing his music with a live audience and enjoying that in-person energy. He said, "Performing shows like the one at Centre Stage is a real treat for me. I love it when people come out to enjoy live music. It's such a great opportunity to share stories and anecdotes about the music. Making connections like that is magical."

Interviews with Ranj Singh available on request.

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About Ranj Singh

In the mid-1980s, Surrey-based singer/songwriter Ranj Singh started his career performing with folk-Punjabi and Hindi artists including Harbhajan Mann. In the '90s, Ranj and his brothers, with the help of award-winning artist, Dal Hothi, formed the bhangra rock group Dal-Dil-Vog (DDV). The group went on to win numerous awards and performed with artists such as Jan Arden, 54-40, Colin James, and Matthew Good. DDV's unique style of music led to tours throughout North America and India, a live performance, and music videos on Much Music, and MTV Asia. More recently, Ranj has been working as a solo artist, performing over 200 shows a year. Ranj makes music with a distinct Indian-Western flair that draws on his love for rock music and heartfelt lyrics. He refers to his unique blend of music as "Indo-Canadian Folk".

About Surrey Civic Theatres (surrey.ca/theatre)

Surrey Civic Theatres are built on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Salish peoples including the ḡícəy̓ (Katzie), ḡʷɑ:ḡłəḡ (Kwantlen) and se'mya'me (Semiahmoo) nations. Surrey Civic Theatres presents a curated mix of professional performances ranging from theatre, music, dance, stand-up comedy, and puppetry with an invitation to connect, laugh, dance, have thought-provoking conversations, and be inspired.