

Herald Cafe

Finding soulmates through music

Love is in the air as this Valentine's Day, noted musical duos who became life partners and kept the music alive in their years of togetherness share their love stories

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Valentine's Day is a day dedicated to love and romance. Music is an important factor that finds its way to the hearts of lovers and in this case, brought two people together for life. These couples from Goa have been performing as musical duos and are happy to be united with their common interest, music.

ANDRE AND TANIA DE SOUZA

It was love at first sight for Andre de Souza and Tania. The two singers met when they went in to record the song, 'Your Eyes' for All India Radio in 1994. "We knew each other since 1994 and we got married in 1996. We met for the recording and used to perform once in a way. We actually started performing in 2008 as a duo, after the children grew up. Our first assignment was the Goa Festival in London on July 26, 2009," says Andre.

Andre feels that music is blending and performing together is a vibe. "We have composed original songs as well. Our daughter Nicole and son Noah, are also performing outside Goa and outside India. Noah sang with the band Pure Magic while Nicole sang with the Colonial Cousins," he says, on how important music is for the family.



LULU AND FILIPE FORTES

Orlim-based Lulu and Filipe Fortes have been creating waves in the Goan music industry for almost four decades. They met at the Taj Aguada, when Emiliano Da Cruz formed a band in the late 1980s. After getting married, they shifted to South Goa and formed a trio with Emiliano's brother, Augustine.

"We started playing at the Ramada which had just opened and then we formed a band called Companeros and performed all genres of music and gradually added folk dances, which was the first at a resort in South Goa," says Lulu Fortes, who performs at concerts across Goa. They got married in January 1990 after one year of courtship and the founding members of Big City Band performed at their wedding. "Luis was the main guy there and he had done one song which was well appreciated. It's been 35 years and counting," says Lulu, a romantic at heart.



SHARON AND DARRYL RODRIGUES

The musical duo, Darryl and Sharon wouldn't exist if Tony Dias had not played cupid. Tony Dias took Darryl Rodrigues from Goa to form the band Aqua Snow in Bombay where we invited Sharon, the daughter of Braz Gonsalves to join the band. "Aqua Snow was a very famous band in 1990, we got married in 1993. We used to perform together for most of the time in Bombay. When we moved to Goa, we were together in the band Syndicate. After Covid, we started the duo, Darryl and Sharon," says Sharon. They are now proud parents to Jarryd, Zefan and Xarah. As a couple, one song that is close to their heart is 'The Wind Beneath My Wings'.

AGATHA AND MELVIN ROSARIO

With her powerful voice, Agatha is not just a firebrand on stage as the lead singer for the band Forefront but is also deeply in love with her husband, Melvin Rosario, also a member of the same band. "It's a complicated story. Before we got married in 2022, it was 18 years of courtship. We met through the band, it started with friendship, and then developed to love. He was in the band prior, I joined the band in 2002," says Agatha. They had a quiet, private wedding with very close friends and family in attendance. How do they keep the romance alive? "Mostly we make each other laugh, keep things lively instead of bringing the sad things in. I think I'm the live wire an extrovert in the relationship. We don't have any favourite song but we are fans of Bob Marley, and his reggae songs," informs Agatha.



CELEBRATING PEGASUS LEGENDS AT CHOWGULE COLLEGE, MARGAO



ST FRANCIS SCHOOL, DULER CELEBRATED ANNUAL DAY

SWIPE RIGHT

Scarlett Johansson objects to deepfake video on antisemitic

A viral protest video generated using AI depicts Jewish celebrities wearing an anti #Kanye T-shirt. The video follows Kanye West's unhinged antisemitic comments on social media and selling a white T-shirt on his website that was branded with a swastika, following a bait-and-switch Super Bowl ad. Scarlett Johansson objected to deepfake video, "I am a Jewish woman who has no tolerance for antisemitism or hate speech of any kind. But I also firmly believe that the potential for hate speech multiplied by A.I. is a far greater threat than any one person who takes accountability for it. We must call out the misuse of AI, no matter its messaging, or we risk losing a hold on reality."



'Andaz Apna Apna' to be re-released



The iconic film, 'Andaz Apna Apna' starring Aamir Khan and Salman Khan, is set to be re-released in cinemas with a brand-new 4K remaster and enhanced Dolby 5.1 sound. One of the most beloved cult-comedies in Indian cinema, 'Andaz Apna Apna' will be making its grand return to theatres this April, 31 years after its original release. The news of the re-release was confirmed by trade analyst Taran Adarsh, who shared the announcement on social media.

THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF HAND FANS

Hand fans come in so many styles and materials—wood, fabric, bamboo—each with its own flair. Whether for practical use or as a decorative item, hand fans remain a timeless symbol of beauty and grace

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For centuries, large, long-handled fans were ceremonial symbols of power, the privilege of pharaohs, priests and kings. Even today, fans of this type are carried



in formal papal processions. The earliest fans were probably used to quicken the burning of a fire or to keep bothersome insects at bay, but they eventually took on a prestigious role. Fan making was an art in China and Japan, by the time the first European ships reached the Orient in the early 1500s.

Portuguese sailors brought back fans to the markets of Europe. It is most likely that fans reached Portuguese-Goa during this period. By the 1700s, the art of the European fashioned fan had reached its peak. Gold, silver, ivory, silk and precious gems were used in making fans, as were simpler materials such as wood and leather.

Many 18th Century pleated and brise fans were painted with reproductions of masterpieces. Wealthy brides and widows were equipped with delicate marriage and dour mourning fans. Advances in printing technology brought the fan within reach of the masses. A novel type of printed fan known as an aide-memoire (a French phrase meaning 'prompt the memory') was popular between 1780 and 1820. These



TYPES OF FANS

PLEATED FANS:

They have a leaf (or mount) of pleated fabric, paper or leather. The leaf is supported on a series of sticks that are joined at one end by a rivet. Guards, which are the two end sticks, protect the fan when it is closed.

BRISE FANS:

They are folding fans that have no leaf. The sticks themselves widen toward their outer ends and overlap to form the body of a fan. To hold the fan together, the sticks are artfully strung with ribbon or string. Cockade fans are folding fans of either the pleated or brise type that open to a full circle.

instructional fans carried printed details on everything from how to flirt to the biological parts of a flower.

Fans have historically been a significant element of the attire worn by aristocratic landladies in Goa. These women would often carry a fan to church during services, particularly during extended ceremonies such as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, New Year, and Christmas, as well as during wedding celebrations.

Antoneta Maria Luiza Vaz from Margão shares, "I still bring my old hand fan, which I inherited from my mother-in-law, to church for services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The fan is over 95 years old and still remains in excellent condition". Additionally, the hand fan became an essential accessory for women participating in the Mando, the last aristocratic Goan social dance known

as 'ballo nobile,' which originated in the 19th century. Even today, the Mando is considered incomplete without the hand fan, although it is now performed by individuals in competitions, a departure from its traditional setting in the home. Old fans have become a rare sight in Goan households today. Nevertheless, certain families in the state have diligently maintained their treasured heirlooms especially sliced ivory/ bone fans, imported from Macau. Fans retained their favored position until well into the 1930s.

Fans were so popular that they were carried by men and women. Fans for men replaced the dress sword as accessory. A luxurious design was a must for fans: The sticks and guards were made of precious material. As fashion catapulted into the modern age, unfortunately, the fan suddenly seemed out of place.

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14th FEB '25 - 7:30 PM ONWARDS

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Dress Code: Smart Casuals.

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₹750/- for 11 to 18 years
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Crowning of Valentine's "Couple"

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