

**The Hudson Opera House presents Music and Dance of India
With Singer Falu and Indian Dancer Sonal Bhatt**

Indian dancer, Sonal Bhatt returns to the Hudson Opera House along with singer [Falu](#) and musicians, Gaurav Shah, harmonium, indian flute (bansuri), and Aditya Kalyanpur, tabla on Saturday, June 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets for the performance are **\$15 or \$12 HOH members.**

Having performed as part of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project and at Carnegie Hall, the ensemble explore connections between India's traditional art forms and modern interpretations. Stay for a post performance talk and demonstration after the show. A great family performance for all ages, not to be missed! This East Meets West performance is co-presented with Operation Unite and is made possible with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Falu is widely recognized for a rare ability to seamlessly blend a signature modern inventive rock style with a formidable Indian classically-shaped vocal talent. In her early years in Bombay, singer Falu (aka Falguni Shah) was trained rigorously in the *Jaipur* musical tradition, honing her talent for up to 16 hours a day at times. She later continued studying under the legendary sarangi/vocal master Ustad Sultan Khan - a mentorship that continues to drive and inspire her to this day. While pursuing a degree in North Indian classical vocal music she won gold medals in three national-level competitions centered around rising young classical talent.

Falu later moved to the States, and in 2001 began recording extensively with Boston-based band Karyshma as well as with Asian Massive leader Karsh Kale, subsequently hitting the nationwide university, club and festival circuits. Falu then formed her own New York-based band of the same name, and started performing at music venues throughout the city including Lincoln Center at a special "Healing the Divide" performance for the Dalai Lama in 2003. Falu's recordings were soon featured on multiple albums and compilations include on the compendium CD to Deepak Chopra's *The Spontaneous Fulfillment of Desire*. In 2004 Falu was invited to perform as a soloist with Yo-Yo Ma's *Silk Road Project*. In 2005 she was asked to serve as one of Carnegie Hall's Musical Ambassadors to New York City – a position she continues to cherish with great enthusiasm. In May of 2006 she became the youngest South Asian vocalist to deliver a solo performance at Carnegie Hall (Zankel). Also in 2006 she joined the *Born Into Brothels Ensemble* (from the Academy-Award winning film), and in 2007 she collaborated with Wyclef Jean, lending her distinctive vocal style to the score of Angelina Jolie's directorial debut *A Place in Time*.

In August of 2007, Falu released her self-titled debut CD, produced by Palmyra Delran and engineered by Grammy winner Emery Dobyns. Soon afterward, Falu and her genre-defining hybrid "Indie Hindi" musical style made a splash in numerous publications including the *Wall Street Journal* and *Times of India*, India's premier national daily newspaper.

More recently, Falu and her band were featured internationally on National Geographic Channel's *Geo Sessions*, as well as on Fox TV's *Fearless Music*, where the hit single *Rabba* became the first Hindi song ever performed on the national network.

During 2008 Falu began an ongoing collaboration with Jason Miles and DJ Logic in the contemporary jazz collective Global Noize with whom she toured extensively, performing live with Meshell Ndegeocello, Bernie Worrell (P-Funk), John Popper and other talented musicians. She contributed three standout tracks to their self-titled album released in Spring 2008 – her vocals in the album were singled out by *Billboard* as “ethereal” and “transcendent”. Other 2008 collaboration highlights included a performance with Philip Glass at the *Buddhist Review Benefit Gala*, and a special performance alongside Blues Traveler at New York’s Highline Ballroom.

Falu's band brings together musicians who draw elegantly from Indian classical, alternative rock, contemporary pop, and electronic styles to create a tight mix of East and West, of ancient and modern.

Sonal Bhatt is a Bharatanatyam dancer, choreographer and storyteller who has been sharing the art of Indian classical dance throughout the United States for over 25 years. Her recent interests have led her to writing and choreographing performance works that employ other dance forms to explore a contemporary context for this ancient art form. Sonal was an artist in residence choreographing and performing with the Silk Road Project, a cultural exchange founded and directed by artist Yo Yo Ma.

Sonal has performed for all ages, sharing cultural stories and traditions of India with others. She is trained in folk dance as well as classical dance. In addition to the performance and workshop at HOH, she has conducted classes at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Outside of her dance life, Sonal lives in New York City and works as an exhibit developer for the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Hudson Opera House, built in 1855 as the City Hall for Hudson, is a non-profit multi-arts center offering numerous programs for adults and children, many of which are free. Funds from the performance help support these ongoing free programs.

For further information about this event or programs, please call the Opera House at (518) 822-1438 or visit the website at www.hudsonoperahouse.org. The Hudson Opera House is located at 327 Warren Street.