

ALI JAFRI - BIOGRAPHY

Ali Jafri is an eclectic multidisciplinary and multicultural artist who writes and performs music with a big hearted twist. It can be angry and uplifting, dark and light or quiet and compelling. The music he writes and performs always seeks to forge a strong connection with audiences and compels a closer listen. Threaded through every genre and music project is an expression of his cultural background as a south-Asian via middle eastern Sufi Canadian. He plays guitar, bass and sitar. He'll fill in ethereal details with electronic effects and loops, add tabla riffs or express the rhythm on a bendir/daf frame drum, and to everything he brings a resonant voice, whether he's singing in English or Urdu. Although he plays traditional classical instruments, he's not traditional but experimental. "Extraditional", a cultural vigilante.

As a solo artist, composer and music director, he creates live multimedia experiences that combine video projections, props and sets with original music. He also creates intimate acoustic shows for small stages. He performs frequently in Toronto and beyond. He tours with **David J. Haskins** (*Bauhaus and Love and Rockets*). He also plays in a dervish music group associated with the **Rifai Sufi Order of Canada**, and the electronic music duo **Gotham City Drugstore** with producer **Chris Hegge**. Jafri still occasionally collaborates with the members of **Ariel**, the band he formed in Ottawa in 1995 and performed in as lead singer/songwriter and guitarist. Before winding down, Ariel recorded four albums (*Looks Like Rain, Withdrawn, Big to the Sky and Sublunar*) and appeared on the compilation album *News from Nowhere* while on the now defunct **Plan Eleven** label. Ariel was a fan favourite at Ontario and Quebec club venues and festivals, including **Lollapalooza**, as both an opener and a headliner.

Jafri's original compositions can be heard in **Digital Dervish**, his latest project **Saintfield** is a collaboration with creative and life partner **Ciara Adams**, and the theme song for **Kick Start Arts Society's** film, "*The Regent Park Project*." He composed backing tracks for *Cirque du Soleil* circus performer **Lara Jacobs** (AKA "*the Balance Goddess*") when she did solo shows. He also provided guitar noise and a track for two horror films by **Chris Alexander**, "*Female Werewolf*" and "*Queen of Blood*," the latter of which starred with **Nivek Ogre** of *Skinny Puppy*. He's available to compose original music and do sound design for your performance or film.

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