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THE DRUMMER AND THE VOICE

ROBERTO NARAIN AND VASUNDHARA DAS, PARTNERS AND BAND MEMBERS, BANGALORE

When Roberto trained with Arthur Hull, the world-renowned American percussionist, he knew he had to share his experience back home in India and that's how Drumjam was born in 2006. Drumjam is a company that uses percussion to create team programmes that companies can use for HR exercises as well as for entertainment. Roberto and singer and actor Vasundhara have been partners since Drumjam started but they've known each other longer. Vasundhara says, "We met through common friends 11 years ago and were recording music at The Active, my studio in Bangalore. In 2003, we had formed

the band Arya and performed at the Festival La Mar de Musicas in Spain."

The attraction between them is evident, and it must leak into their music as well. Vasundhara says about their equation, "My temperament is different from Roberto's. I take time to think about every situation at my own pace, while he acts fast. He's really good at being a musician as well as a businessman and that's a rare combination. But then he can be impulsive. So it's my thinking and his action that balances the act." Roberto puts it another way, "I see things in black, grey and white and she brings in colour." And that makes for beautiful music. ▶

By Namita Gupta