

## Pervez returns to India

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### *Pervez Mody*

*Pervez Mody has made a name playing composer Scriabin's compositions, in the thirteen years he was away from home.*

Pervez Mody has returned to the country after 13 years. The reason? He puts it very simply, "I wasn't invited, so I didn't come." But in this interim period, the pianist has risen to the higher echelons of classical pianists in the world. Thanks to a grueling regimen of practice and a slew of concerts, even his family has to fly to [Europe](#) to meet him.

Now that the NCPA has invited him, he will show the city why he is so sought after. At his concert on Monday he will play works by Chopin and Scriabin. "I will play all three periods of Scriabin's music from his romantic, initial compositions to the middle period and finally his atonal works. The composer also shares an Indian connection. He was attracted to Indian philosophy and was an ardent follower of Helena Blavatsky (the founder of the Theosophical Society)," says Pervez.

The pianist left [India](#) when he was 17 years old in search of greener pastures. With few opportunities to perform, Europe was the natural choice. In fact he hasn't spoken English for so long that German words keep popping up during the interview. And after all this while, few things have changed he feels. Education is the biggest problem. Reading ads by novice teachers bothers him.

"I think culture is the barometer of society. If life is good, you want to experience the good things it has to offer. The difference between Europe and India lies in the fact that if someone has an idea there are people supporting it. Here it's difficult to find artistic value, people want commercial projects," says Pervez.

And he knows what he is talking about. Scriabin's compositions were the rage during his time, but few have taken to his atonal works after his demise. "I have a big repertoire, but honestly it is mostly for the cupboard. You can't play everything, and most concerts want you to play the crowd-pulling compositions by Tchaikovsky or Rachmaninoff. The reason I play [Scriabin](#) is because my teacher asked me to carry on this tradition. She is the best player of Scriabin in the world," he says.

So what is it that makes him play this esoteric and controversial composer so well? "All the great masters have hidden secrets in their compositions which they take to the grave with them. I have been taught a couple of Scriabin's secrets by my teacher. Also, his music is a world of feeling, you can't play his music intellectually, you have to feel it.