



# India Fascinates Me: Devindra Pooran

By Sue Vjih

There is a sweet melody that lingers on much after you have heard - Suhani Raat dhal chuki hai, Saranga teri yaad me and Dunia banane vale kya tere man mein samai, Mukesh's every-green songs in Devindra Pooran's voice. Pooran immortalizes the great singers of Indian cinema as well pays tributes to music.

Called the heart throb of Caribbean, Devindra Pooran is the most sort after Caribbean singer who now lives in the US and entertains the Indo-

ara, Guyana where he spent his childhood and formative years Pooran is not new to fame. Starting his earlier singing days in Guyana, he learnt the music on his own and won many competitions. "I loved Hindi movies and Hindi film music." He moved to the Unites states in 1989 for better opportunities like others who come from all over the world but kept alive his love for music.

Now in their 30<sup>th</sup> year, Bharat Yatra is famous for arranging comfortable ex-



Melody King  
Devindra Pooran

Bharat Yatra was the best. "Its tour director Ramesh D. Kalicharran knows everything. He has been doing it for the past 30 years and makes your travels and stay very comfortable as he takes personal interest in small details like, food, stay and tour. Experience does count, nobody can do like him," adds Pooran.

Talking about his music career, Pooran says his best memory was of 2005 Bollywood awards, where he sang. He also enjoyed singing in the 80s in Guyana, when he sang with Indian

learnt on his own, with inner dedication and a lot of practice. One reason for his love for music was his love for Hindi movies and Hindi music.

Anoop Dhanpat, leader of the "Sansar Sangeet Band," producer of the New York "Mastana Bhar," and the disciple of noted musician late Hari Om Saran of India, promotes cultural musical talents and gives the young talent awards. Parvati Khan was the first one to get "Mas-tana Bahar award" in Trinidad. Dhanpal said among young talents Victoria Labban, Elyse Ba-booram were coming up.



Caribbean people at any important event. With an amazing ability to sing Hindi film songs with great ease Pooran renews the Hindi film music of 60s' 70s and 80s.

citing trips to India, bringing talented artists on their trip, to entertain the travelers and to introduce the artists to the land of their forefathers.

Devindra Pooran is

2010 and drenched himself in the land's beauty, serenity and culture.

Even though there has been more than a century and half ago Indians were brought to the Caribbean by the British, it seems just yesterday. The new generation still feels the need to reconnect with their roots, religious fervor, beliefs and philosophy which they heard and accepted as its custodian their forefathers brought from thousand miles across India to the Caribbean.

"Everybody likes to get out and travel as it changes your perspective when you go to a new place, but India is very special for us,"

beautiful monuments, places and cities,

He has great memories of his earlier trip to India in 2010. "Bombay is my favorite city, its pace, its culture and its beauty. It is also the home of Bollywood." Smiles Pooran.

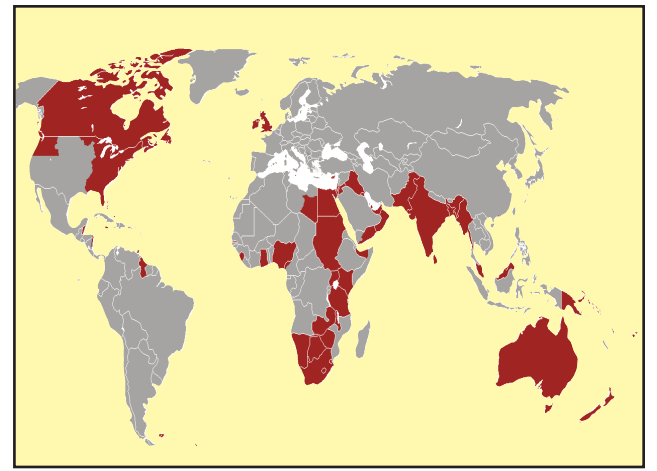
He feels although India has changed since his ancestors came to the Caribbean as indentured laborers, but there are many links, like Ganga, which connect us with India.

He feels blessed to have been born and raised in Guyana. "It was very good life there, you felt relaxed. Everything was natural, trees, crops, milk and life style." The Caribbean legendary singer adds that his children were lucky to have spent their childhood there, who like singing but don't spent much time. "Life is fast in the US." He adds.

Talking about his impression of India Pooran feels that he loved India. "Although the traffic was like in Manhattan, but something about the air was fascinating. I loved being in India. That's why I'm going back."

"India is the country where Krishna and Ram were born, land of Tulsidas and Ganga," he adds, "Of course land of Taj Mahal and Gandhi." He said he really enjoyed going to Gandhi's birth place and seeing the other places where Gandhi lived.

Reflecting upon his first travel, Pooran said the



singer Ashok Hari, a popular Bollywood playback singer.

"Music was relaxing and provided peace," says Pooran. He was very happy to continue singing forever. "Ever and forever." He smiles. He was happy that his family was very supportive of him, "Otherwise I wouldn't have made here."

He said he enjoyed his musical contests in Guyana and likes now here in the US. "It is a beautiful journey."

With 23 CDs, many earlier vinyl recording and cassettes, to his credit Pooran says he was content where his musical journey has brought him. He owes it the Caribbean people, who always loved him and his voice.

Although having a full time job, Pooran finds time for music between his work and sleep. Without any formal training in music, he

He said Devindra Pooran was the best Indo-Caribbean singer. We are lucky to have him. Devindra put a lot into his music."

'Kali Bharat Yatra is scheduled from October 26 to November 11, 2013. Singer Devindra Pooran joins the trip after three years. They will be visiting New Delhi, Akshardham, Rishikesh, Haridwar, Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra, Taj Mahal and other famous places in north India.



A special moment at the popular Kaitaur Restaurant in Richmond Hill New York the place where the dynamic trio-performs every Sunday from 8:00 to 12 PM

Artists are made of talent, dedication and love-Pooran has all these three in abundance. Born in Hague, West Coast Demer-

looking forward to his second trip to India in October - "back to roots", as he calls. Pooran traveled to India with Bharat Yatra in

says the soft spoken and well mannered Pooran. "I look forward to seeing India again; touching the water of Ganga, see its



Trinidadian born Anoop Dhanpat leader of Sansar Sangeet Band

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