
Raine Eastman- Gannett of Berkeley California.

Raine will be at her 56th Anniversary at Avatar's Abode this year.

Her Skills in music and voice go back to the "Queensland Conservatorium" at the advice of Mandali-poet Francis Brabazon, after meeting him in October 1969 at a reading of "Stay With God" and a week later at "Avatars Abode" Woombye Queensland, at his invitation, when she and Steven Hein moved to the Sunshine Coast from Melbourne. They then started attending readings and meetings at Meher Baba followers' homes and soon staying at "Avatars Abode" every weekend.

This began Raine's 12 years of weekly association with Francis and "Avatars Abode" staying on the Abode and being involved in meetings, greeting pilgrims, caring for the property, cooking, brewing gallons of chai, and most importantly through Francis' skills studying and being part of the wonderful fine arts of "Entertaining the Beloved".

Plays written by Francis, acting in them, the "Avatars Abode Singers" once formed by Francis and Sam in 1972, and eventually all going to India every year From January 1973 around Amartithi time and becoming close to the Mandali who were Francis' best friends, due to his 11 years at Meherabad with Meher Baba.

Raine kept up that tradition of going to India annually.

Raine sings her skilled musical art form, including Francis Brabazon's, her own, Sam Saunders', and other great Baba followers' beautiful compositions of music worldwide. She also teaches workshops of these songs, and the art of singing, acting, gospel, solo and group presentations of songs at retreats and Sahavas Gatherings across America. All this while teaching singing, and performing in a professional Choir "Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir"

This years' performances and workshops evolve around "The Songs of Francis Brabazon" an historical archival essay Raine wrote about songs and English language ghazals studied and performed over the years.



Raine leading Arti at "Meherana" Mariposa, California.
Photo by Dyan Ullman

Simon Reece & Carla de Sousa



They will be staying on a after the Avatar's Abode Anniversary as Artists-in Residence and have a few delights to share then too.

Simon is English & Carla is from the big Argentinian Baba group in La Plata, where they both lived before moving to Meherabad in 2009.

Carla works full time for the archives in Meherabad and in Meherabad.

Simon works for the Trust Publications Committee as Translation Coordinator (having previously been a professional translator) and contributes to the Meherabad community's arts programme, especially in the fields of music, film and drama.

Music: They play a wide range of styles of Baba music in English and Spanish ranging from the danceable to the melancholy, using some beautiful ethnic instruments from Argentina, Armenia and Iran.

Film: One of their main artistic projects in Meherabad is a Baba comedy series called Mehrgaon Days. We have currently released Episode One and hope to have Episode Two (featuring Lorraine Brown) ready to show by June.

Doug & Ginger Ross

Doug Ross is a long-time follower of the Indian spiritual master Meher Baba. He and his wife Ginger live in Richmond California. He served on the board of directors for the Meher Baba Center of Northern California, Inc. in El Cerrito, California. He is travelling with his wife Ginger.

Doug has performed in, narrated and written wonderful performances about Baba and his life including playing Francis Brabazon as pictured with Alan Talbot. Photo credit Alisa Genovese

