

The Dhol Foundation set out to really explore the capabilities and diverse range of music from various cultures around the world. This openness to other cultures sets the group apart from other dhol groups. This is, the unique sound of the Dhol Foundation and, the reason why the dhol has been exposed to cultures and countries where it has never been heard before.....TDF style! Rock, pop and electronic, drum and bass, classical elements it's all in there.

Johnny Kalsi, the UK's most celebrated player of the Punjabi dhol drum, is no stranger to audiences across Europe. As a member of Afro Celt Sound System, Imagined Village and Trans-global Underground he's featured in more bills than most. But it's The Dhol Foundation that's his pride and joy, the organization that delivers a now legendary wall of sound, global rhythms and thumping contemporary beats with the effervescent Johnny at the heart of their live shows.

The full stage show features an energetic battery of dhols up front, bass, drums, guitar, dholak and can include bhangra dancers and guest singers powering out a sound that's as eclectic as it is forceful. TDF The musical influences are drawn from a rich pallet of global sounds and it's the openness to exploring the music of other cultures that has always set TDF apart from other Dhol groups.

The band have featured in the music of Hollywood films, Gangs of New York and The Incredible Hulk. They have also worked with Peter Gabriel on the soundtrack for films including Rabbit Proof Fence and The Last Temptation of Christ.

The Dhol Foundation performed as the opening act with STOMP at the Royal Variety Performance which was screened on ITV1 in December 2011. Peter Kay hosted the star-studded event which also featured Tony Bennett, Barry Manilow, Cee Lo Green, Nicole Scherzinger and Pixie Lott. The show was staged at The Lowry on Salford Quays and also on the bill were comedians Jason Manford, Greg Davies and Tim Minchin.

TDF played before their biggest ever crowd at the London 2012 Closing Ceremony in August 2012 when they built up a percussive undercurrent to the soundtrack of 'Running up That Hill' by Kate Bush, an spectacular event watched by millions of viewers worldwide.

Johnny Kalsi was born and raised in the United Kingdom. As a youth, he became increasingly interested in music, although his parents had other aspirations for him. Johnny first learnt the art of the Tabla at his local Gurdwara from the Late Prof. Gurmeet Singh Virdee and slowly became intrigued by the Dhol. Being in a time where there were not any Dhol Groups Johnny Kalsi took to teaching himself the complex beats of the Dhol and essentially redesigning the traditional beats of the Dhol to his own specifications. Taking the North Indian Tabla Gharana (House) Style of playing and Dialect, Johnny adapted the teaching technique to work on the Dhol Drum. Living in the UK his exposure to a variety of genres embraced both traditional Indian music as well as Western influences. His style became a blend of rhythms utilizing a mixture of both Eastern and Western instruments.

In 1988, Johnny Kalsi joined the pioneers of Bhangra Alaap and Mela Group. After performing at a number of weddings and Melas Johnny Kalsi fulfilled his aspirations to try out something different. From this he then went on to found The Dhol Foundation, to which he began teaching in small halls and living rooms! As The Dhol Foundation grew Johnny began to open classes all over the UK and eventually the classes went global and spread over to Canada. Parallel to this Johnny Kalsi became well established in the Western music industry and landed a publishing deal with Peter Gabriel's Real World Records. With this Johnny Kalsi took Bhangra to the next level and emerged the traditional

sounds of the Dhol with influences all over the world. While working along side Mr Gabriel himself Johnny Kalsi became the Ambassador for the WOMAD festival as well as becoming 'Friends with Eden' and making The Dhol Foundation a limited company.

The amount of gigs The Dhol Foundation have done are uncountable after 30 odd years. The experience of various performances are undeniable to the World Music industry. The amount of friends and collaborations they have performed with have made memorable occasions many times over for millions of people. Touching the lives and hearts of fans & people that have witnessed a Dhol Foundation performance to it's fullest potential, have gone away wanting to take the band home.

Full production & their own albums produced by Johnny Kalsi himself introduces collaborations of wonderful artists. Musicians, Singers and collaborative producers that bring a small piece of their own magic to spread on a TDF album. Traveling with the band around the globe has given the opportunity for TDF to tour the music and expose it to millions of others. From festival goers to one off gigs, the response has been incredible and credible to the band.

Johnny has also played with a whole range of music groups, from the golden age of Bhangra with the pioneers Alaap & Channi Singh OBE, to more collective groups such as Trans-Global Underground, The Imagined Village and The Afro Celts Sound System. In 1995, Kalsi joined an emerging World Music organization founded by Peter Gabriel, based at Real World Studios in Box Wiltshire, England. That connection served as a springboard for his career and exposed his talent to a global audience. Johnny Kalsi released his debut album in 2001 'Big Drum Small World.' The album was recorded all around the world and his influences were drawn from the bands he had played with. Big Drum Small World was a storm for the global music scene. Johnny gained an immense amount of experience in the studios and his vision and pallet gave him the ability to create and write great music.