

# Curtorim boy's musical debut

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**S**inger-songwriter Vince Costa recorded his debut music album *Saint and Sinner* in a 'makeshift room, that was converted into a studio'. Calling it a 'mammoth task' and sometimes even 'intimidating', he says the album was recorded entirely live.

## 'EXPLORING DAD'S RECORD COLLECTION GOT ME STARTED'

Hailing from Curtorim village, Vince describes his growing years. "They were like any average village boy's, where summers were spent between, football, mangoes, fishing, and cycling around the village. The monsoons were about watching the fields turn green and enjoying the rain and getting drenched with friends playing marbles."

Telling us how he got drawn into music, he says, "Music was always played at my home, on the radio, where I would listen to Radio Ceylon, or 'My Favourites' on All India Radio.

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I started exploring my father's record collection early and received encouragement from my mother's family, who are very musical. Guitars were always around, so I would pick one up and try to play it. It was only later that I started to take it up with more sincerity. Local bands were the heroes of the day, and emulating them was a sort of goal. One thing lead to another, and I felt that music was where I wanted to be."

## A SINGLE THAT BECAME AN ALBUM

"*Saint and Sinner* is an English album that was written over four years. It started with one song, with no definite plan of making an album. I was going through an intense personal phase, emotionally charged, and music was the creative outlet. So, from time to time, I would pen these songs down.

It was with much prodding that I finally decided to consider the songs as worthy of sitting together on an album."

Growing up listening to American music, the singer says it's the American genre that influenced him. He elaborates, "It's likely

that you will hear more of a Western influence than a Goan one. Yet some of the characters and scenarios described in this music are from everyday Goan life. Goa does influence me and play a part in my creative expression. To be specific, I would say the village of Curtorim inspires me and its rich musical legacy eggs me on to push the status quo."

## RECORDING IN THE MONSOONS A MAMMOTH TASK

Coordinating dates with the musicians, and recording in the monsoon, 'in the unpredictable weather', Vince says, it was 'a rather mammoth task which was intimidating at times.' He explains, "We had to wait for the perfect time to record to avoid external sounds. Since I had locked myself away to write and then record these songs, I would have to admit that many relationships got tested, ask my wife. Finally, we came through on the other side, and it feels good."

## I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR KONKANI ARTISTES FROM GOA

That would be a tribute to the land I come from says the singer. "I have great respect for the Konkani artistes from Goa; it could be the music they write from Tiatr or main stream Konkani music. They have been writing original music for decades and expressing themes from everyday life to social issues," he says, "For me to get into that space will take some time, as I will have to evolve to being able to express myself in that genre eloquently without disrespecting them."

## I DON'T KNOW HOW WELL I'D DO IN BOLLYWOOD

Vince would like to but he has his apprehensions. "Everything has its own time and place and value, but for me, with a Goan accent, I don't know how well I do in Bollywood."



Vince Costa