

'Saint and Sinner' gives a soulful musical portrayal of the urgent need

'The beads of a saint in the hands of a sinner, on the lips of my mind, on the prayers of a child. Each moment I live, flows through my veins. Little rivers, of passion and pain' sings Vince Costa in the title track of his debut album 'Saint and Sinner' which he says "Exposes the internal battle or angst between good and evil." Vince talks about his long odyssey, his dilemmas and how the album turned out to be satisfying.

It's a mix mash of country, blues and rock n roll

A soft spoken person by heart, Vince who hails from the village of Curtorim, says the album is largely influenced by Goa but not necessarily Goan sounding, with predominantly an 'Americana' feel to it.

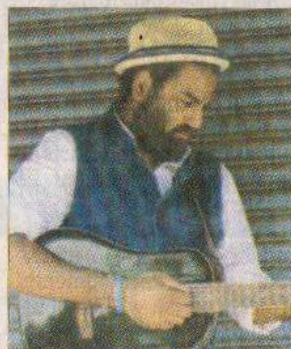
"I come from the village

of Curtorim, which is very deeply musical. I am very proud and respectful from where I came from. As a village, the place has a different vibe. In the west, people don't expect an 'Americana' album to come out of India. They don't expect the sound. What I wanted to do was to create an album that was from this place yet not necessarily Goan sounding" says Vince, who grew up lis-

tening to a variety of music ranging from Hank Marvin, Jim Reeves to Eric Clapton, The Rolling Stones and Pink Floyd.

It never was an album in the first place

It took four long years for Vince to make this album, and it all started with a single as Vince says "It started off as one song. I am not



really a singer songwriter, I have made singles but I couldn't categorise myself as a singer songwriter and write a whole album"

This is just another form of story telling

Vince has an electronic side of him too, where he used to mix songs for oth-

ers artists when in Australia as a sound engineer. He says he never really had that moment of 'enlightenment' which made him take his own path towards music.

"I think it's one of my callings. I can never say, that I had this epiphany, and there was this moment where I suddenly had this enlightened moment and say 'Oh this is what I am going to do for the rest of my life' I don't think so. But in principle, I rather say I found clarity in a part of what I do, which is story telling" says Vince, sipping a cup of his green tea.

"We are in the midst of stories around us and every person is a walking story. For me it will be difficult to tell you what story I am going to write next. For me it

only depends on what I am inspired by at that moment. The story must choose me, if you're ready it will come"

Maintaining relationships was the toughest

Dedicating your time on a single project for four years is always tough but Vince was so immersed in it that the thought of quitting never came to his mind. Apart from minor setbacks he always rode on.

"Firstly, the album was recorded in a makeshift studio. We had to make sure we could record at a very high quality level, and keep the ambient sounds minimal. Secondly, we were recording in the monsoon. Besides

all these challenges, it was a period of time that I had stay committed to the project. 4 years is a lot of time stay committed to a project. If I look back it was pretty excruciating and I used to sleep 4.30 in the morning, because it was quiet and I could not record. Maintaining relationships was tough. You have close relationships with people, and suddenly you are not available, your timings change, that for me essentially the toughest part"

It's not perfect and that's what I love about it

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It's been more than a month since 'Saint and Sin-

ner' has been released and Vince is extremely happy with the reviews he has received so far.

"I have got a mix of feedback which is good, but even then as a musician, I know there will be flaws. And I had the choice of correcting the flaws and leaving it as it is and I have left the album as it is, as we have recorded.

"Not for a second I would want to rework on anything. This captured a part of my life, a part of our lives. This is what we wanted to say at this point of time and given the circumstance and given everything, this was what we did.

It's not a shiny well produced album, it's got its blemishes and that's what makes you connect to the album unconsciously."