

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Sonargon
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha
Venue: Nordic Club, Gulshan-2
Date: Nov 21-Dec 17
Time: 5am-7pm

Print Exhibition
Title: Chapai Chobi-1
Venue: Gallari Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector 4, Uttara
Date: November 24-December 4
Time: 11am-7:30pm

15th Asian Art Biennale
Venue: Bangladesh Shikhalpa Academy, Segunbagicha
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Speed of Life
Artist: Jamil Kaid
Venue: Zaidul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, Dhaka University
Date: December 3-8

Rooted Creativity-11
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi
Date: Nov 26-Dec 5
Time: 12pm-8pm

DU Annual Theatre Fest
Venue: TSC Auditorium, DU
Date: Nov 23-Dec 5
Time: 6:30pm

Theatre
Play: Kaler Datta
Troupe: Padatik Naya Sangad (TSC)
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shikhalpa Academy
Date: December 5
Time: 6:30pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Senses 7
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, Rd-7A, Dhanmondi
Date: December 1-10
Time: 3-8pm

BENGAL ITC-SRA CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2012



Saswati Sen dances to the jugalbandi

PHOTO: ATLA AAKASH



Vidushi Girija Devi



Pandit Birju Maharaj



Priyanka Gope



Purbayan Chatterjee

Legends are made of moments like these

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Dhaka Music enthusiasts and connoisseurs were in a musical high. Instrumental recitals and vocal renditions coupled with stirring Kathak performances by Pandit Birju Maharaj and his main disciple Saswati Sen went on, one after another, on the penultimate night (December 1) of 'Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Festival 2012', held at Bangladesh Army Stadium in Dhaka.

Another iconic figure, Pandit Birju Maharaj made the Dhaka audience sway with his lyrical presentation. The accompanying vocalist, tabla artiste, sarangi and tanpura players weaved a garland of many melodious ragas. Showcasing his mesmerising prowess on taal and bol, Maharaj danced to the melody of divinity.

Legends are made of moments like these. The programme was supposed to wrap up by midnight, yet five more performances were yet to be showcased. Those who had to leave the maestros that night, missed out. Those staying back were blessed with superb performances: "Charukeshi" recital by sitarist Purbayan Chatterjee; divine rhythms on tabla by Pandit Kumar Bose; and vocal performances by Arshad Ali Khan, Kumar Mardur and Vidushi Subhra Guha.

OF MEN AND MUSIC
Classical music in Dhaka comes of age

recently has had a tremendous impact in Bangladesh almost had a premature end had it not been for a group of people who revived it to save Kolkata's face. Interestingly, 'Dover Lane' did not start with classical music; neither did it begin at the present Nazrul Mancha. It has its origin in Dover Lane in the Ballygunj area of South Kolkata. A few music enthusiasts used to have music sessions of some sort in their homes on a rotation basis. As the interest brewed, the group shifted the venue to the nearby Singhi Park; that was in 1952. Historically, this probably is the first open air music conference in Kolkata and was studied with modern songs; Rabindra Sangeet and a few classical renderings were at the tail end. Nobody virtually lives today to recap the past. The last person to talk about it was Provat Kumar Das popularly known as 'Das babu', a founder member of the 'Dover Lane Music Conference'; that also 10 years ago when he was 79. As years went by, modern songs and Rabindra Sangeet were eased out, totally. But some are of the opinion that it began as early as 1953. i.e. from its second year.



Some day, this city could be a centre of excellence for classical music.

PHOTO: ATLA AAKASH

Who was not at 'Dover Lane'? Alauddin Khan, Hafiz Ali Khan, Kesarbai Kerkar, Omkarnath Thakur, Hirabai Barodkar to Bade Ghulam Ali; Nisar Hussain Khan, Bhismadev Chattopadhyay, Tarapada Chakrabarty, Amir Khan to Mallikarjun Mansur. The list is endless if you take into account the relatively 'young ones' like Velayat Khan, Ravi Shankar, the duo Nazakat Ali-Salamat Ali from Pakistan, Keramatullah Khan, Shamta Prasad, Kishan Maharaj, Radhakanta Nandi and the 'prodigies' from Bollywood -- Vijayantimala, Asha Parekhi, Hema Malini and Vani Ganipathy who were all talented dancers. Well, 'Dover Lane' had Damodar Das Khanna aka 'Lala babu', a head hunter, who would travel the length and breadth of India to invite the best and tap the best to be.

Stories engulf Dover. Hafiz Ali Khan presented a concert with his sons, Rahmat and Amjad Ali Khan, the first major concert of the two brothers in Kolkata. Bhisem Joshi had the entire audience in Kolkata. He rendered "Ramkali". Ali Akbar Khan could not play to his liking; he left the stage promising to come back the next day; he kept his word to mesmerise all. When hell broke loose in Kolkata

during the riot, lest listeners be attacked in the dark. Gangubai Hangal held them spellbound with her rendition until the morning glow of the sun was clearly visible. From homes to Singhi Park to Vivekananda Park to Nazrul Mancha, Dover went on and on. The secret? It is run by an organisation of 1,000 members -- like our social clubs but dedicated to sangeet. Two other such organisations come to mind: 'Sur Singar Sansad', Mumbai and the 'Tansen Sammelan' on the tomb of Tansen in Gwalior. Both took off in the '30s.

Sadly, nothing similar comes to mind with Bangladesh. If memory has not betrayed one, Bade Ghulam Ali in his only visit to Dhaka in the mid-'50s was requested to sing film songs (effect of Nausbad's breakthrough music in "Baju Bawra") at Gulistan cinema hall, now no more. But that does not mean we did not have pure classical music. Gul Mohammad Khan (who was based in Dhaka since the '30s); Yusuf Khan Qureshi (who had to make a premature exit in 1966, falling to the big "C" -- cancer); Quader Zameri, a direct disciple of Zamiruddin Khan; PC Gomes; Munshi Raisuddin; Mastan Gama (who like Amir Khan died in a car crash in Dhaka); Pheel Mohammad Khan; Fazul Huq; Yasin Khan Qureshi were very active in Dhaka. Among others were the instrumentalists Ayet Ali Khan; Abed Hossain Khan; Hingoo Khan; Mubarak Hussain Khan; Khadem Hossain Khan; Mir Kasem Khan; and the percussionist, Sakhawat Hussain that one can easily recall. Then there was Barin Majumder who apart from being a vocalist toiled

day and night to establish the first institute of classical music on this soil. Courtesy him, we were exposed to some of the finest performers -- Nazakat Ali; Salamat Ali; Amanat Ali; Fateh Ali Khan; Mehdi Hasan; and the charming and beautiful Farida Khanum. There were always some great patrons too at a private level. Alim-ur-Rahman aka 'Alim bhai' comes to mind first. It was in his Wari residence that Ustad would find abode in comfort during the late '50s and '60s. There was hardly anyone from Pakistan who had not performed at his residence apart from the local artists. We were then too young to be invited. Asafudowlah, the well known bureaucrat, singer and champion swimmer also supported classical music in his own capacity. Others regularly tuned in to "Akashvani Kolkata" in "medium wave" at night for the annual 'Akashvani Sangeet Sammelan' that was broadcast simultaneously from Delhi to various radio stations. The Engineering Institute was one centre where such soirees were held. One could recollect the musical extravaganzas of '60s, though few. Those of us in our teens, unknown and unspooled, were always outside the building trying to catch a glimpse of what was happening inside: the audio provided for us was invariably poor. All these till 1970. Post-Liberation at home, we had Ferdousi Begum (yes, she was into thumri too); Ila Majumder; Akhtar Samdani; and Abha Alam who unfortunately died early. There were sporadic cases of some outstanding musicians visiting Dhaka that included Ravi Shankar Dagar brothers (thanks to Tawfiq Nawaz). Almost 15 years ago, we had Amanat Ali and Fateh Ali at the National Museum and for some years now, on a regular basis, a host of musicians from India -- thanks to Bengal Foundation, which also taps and nurtures talents as a part of its programme. With Dhaka now in the reliable hands of Bengal Foundation and ITC-SRA, it is one of those moments whose effect becomes prominent with years. Who knows, some day, this city could be a centre of excellence for classical music.

Norwegian music in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Music enthusiasts of the port city were recently enthralled by the performance of Trio Nattergale, a troupe consisting of three Norwegian baroque musicians, at DC Hill premises. Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA) and Live Square hosted the programme, titled "In search of the Roots" -- initiated by the Royal Norwegian Embassy and Concerts Norway. The programme featured some traditional and popular Norwegian compositions alongside pieces that were the outcomes of a two-day music workshop arranged by BITA at Fulki Auditorium here. The programme started with a performance featuring Bangladesh music instruments -- dotara and dhol -- by local artistes. Norwegian artiste Erik Skanke

Hosoi, who trained in guitar and lute at Staatliche Hochschule fur Musik in Germany, performed "Passacaglia" composed by Kapsberger, on his theorbo (a string instrument). Ingeborg Christophersen, who received the Norwegian Society of Tone Artists' Prize of Honour, Musician of the Year (2003), played a composition titled "Gambale Guro" (old mother) on her sea flute. The outstanding piece, "Ciaccone", composed by Biber was ably played by Karolina Radzziej on baroque violin. The trio held sway over the port city audience with a rendition of "Tambourin". The programme ended with some group performances that were the outcome of a workshop held at Fulki, directed by music producer Hallgeir Frydenlund. Local artistes and Norwegian musicians performed the compositions.

Advertisement for 'How well do you know 007?' featuring a James Bond movie poster and promotional text for a quiz competition.

Table listing TV channels and their programmes, including ATN Bangla, Maasranga Television, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table listing radio stations and their programmes, including Radio FM 89.2, Radio Today FM 89.6, and Radio Today FM 89.6.

Advertisement for the movie 'Top Gun' featuring Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis, with details on where to watch it.

Advertisement for the Metro Life drama series featuring Pijush Bandyopadhyay and Shaberi Alom.

Table listing various TV channels and their programmes, including Drama Serial, Boishakhi TV, BANGLAVISION, Rtv, Desh TV, and BBC World.

Table listing drama serials and their schedules, including 'March' on Rtv and 'Side Effect' on Desh TV.

Table listing news bulletins and their schedules, including 'News (Bangla)' on BTv and 'News (English)' on various channels.

Table listing talk shows and their schedules, including 'Ekushey-er Baat' on BTv and 'Our Democracy' on Maasranga Television.