For one of my sessions with the students, I tried to teach them Samba music and assigned four people as the vocalists with each person playing a different, unique sound. They created the piece within 10-12 minutes, which was very interesting. Of course, as we say in Brazil, it was Japanese Samba (smiles) but they were still quite good."

The Acquired Taste

"Music is without borders. Even though I didn't grow up listening to world music, I develop my senses to accept and understand music from different countries. From the last three years, I listen to music Madagascar, Tunisia, Turkish, Iran on world radio every week – it's amazing! If you have only heard Western music all your life, music from other parts of the world will sound very strange to you. You have to continue listening to world music to develop actual, holistic knowledge and interest in music. Only after repeated hearings will you be able to understand the mathematics behind a particular music culture and only then will you be able to truly appreciate music in its varied forms."



Foiere regaled the audience at Alliance Française de Dhaka. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Sounds of Music

"The music scene in Brazil is very interesting because we are a multi cultural country. Songs and compositions are inspired by the music of countries as culturally different as Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy and others. We want our people to appreciate music and thus, concerts are held here every day. However, we cater to everybody not just the elite society. In Russia, for example, concerts are organized every day as well but these are not free, you will have to pay a substantial amount to enjoy a live performance. Concerts in Sao Paulo, on the other hand, are usually priced at half a dollar and you get to enjoy different kinds of performance, starting from guitar concerts to piano recitals to chamber orchestras, opera, etc.

This sense of music appreciation needs to be improved in Bangladesh. You could begin by holding concerts featuring international musicians every month, and then gradually you could bring it to a week. This could be done with support from the government and organizations like the CMAD."

Appreciation Starts from Childhood

"In order to develop a culture of music appreciation, it is important to develop a sense of music within children from infancy. In Europe, you learn music the way you'd learn an important language. When a child is around 10 years old in many countries of Europe, they know how to 'read' music, they know all the classical composers, thus contributing towards a richer culture. World music appreciation needs to be a mandatory subject in every school, as a country's culture can only be enhanced when its children are well informed.

Folk music in Bangladesh is very rich but I can't take this back to my country because often times I don't find the required music notes. Sadly, there is no practice of protecting old music in Bangladesh. Preserving the ancient, traditional folk music of the country is of utmost importance, as this is a part of Bangladesh's culture, its history. There are lots of good composers in this country but we often let their music just die with them."

Coming Back

"I will next be performing in Nepal before heading off to Ukraine and then to Germany and finally to Mexico. I hope to come back to Dhaka next year with a vocalist, a percussionist and a bassist. With three to four more musicians, we could actually hope to arrange a Brazilian Music Festival here! (smiles)"

Music Heals

"My wife passed away in 2004 and my child died last year. Music helps as it requires enormous creativity and attention. When you are a musician, you are providing happiness to everyone, including yourself."