

WHAT'S ON

Bengal Classical Music Fest 2014

Organiser: Bengal Foundation

Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka

Date: Nov 27-Dec 1

Time: 5pm -5am



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Proshanta Karmakar

Buddha

Venue: Café Mango Gallery,

H-3/A, Rd-72, Gulshan

Date: Nov 14-Jan14

Time: 10am-10pm



Theatre

Selim Al Deen Festival 2014

Organiser: Dhaka Theatre

Venue: Experimental Theatre

Hall, BSA

Date: Nov 28-Dec 1; Time: 7pm



16th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh

Venue: National Art Gallery,

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Date: December 1-31

Time: 11am to 8pm except

Fridays (3-8pm)



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Life is Here

Artist: Kanak Chandra Chakma

Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60,

Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1

Date: Nov15-Dec 6

Time: 12pm-8pm



The scion of sarod: Amjad Ali Khan

STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, one of the greatest sarod masters of India, has been performing internationally since the 1960s. He is scheduled to wrap up the third Bengal Classical Music Festival in Dhaka with his divine recital tonight. Born on October 9, 1945 into a musical family, today he shoulders the sixth generation of legacy in the legendary Bangash lineage, rooted in the Senia Bangash School of music.

After his stage debut at age seven, the career graph of this incredibly talented artiste took flight, and the Indian classical music scene was witness to regular, scintillating bursts of Raga supernovas. The sarod was given a new yet timeless interpretation by Amjad Ali Khan.

He has performed at the most prestigious venues across the world -- the Carnegie Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Kennedy Center, Sanctuary Hall (First Indian performer), House of Commons, Theater Dela ville, Musée Guimet, Victoria Hall in Geneva, Mozart Hall in Frankfurt and the Opera House in Australia. He has performed at the WOMAD Festival in Adelaide and New



Plymouth, Edinburgh Music Festival, World Beat Festival in Brisbane, Taranaki in New Zealand, Summer Arts Festival in Seattle, BBC Proms, International Poets Festival in Rome, Shiraz Festival, UNESCO, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Adelaide Music Festival, UK and in Vienna.

The maestro has, to his credit, the

distinction of having created many new Ragas. It is love for music and his belief in his music that has enabled him to interpret traditional notions of music for new refreshing ways, reiterating the challenge of innovation and yet respecting the timelessness of tradition.

His two sons, Amaan Ali Khan and

Ayaan Ali Khan are also well-known names in the music scene, termed "Coming Masters" by the New York Times. Amjad Ali Khan's wife Subhalakshmi Khan has been a great exponent of the Indian classical dance, Bharatnatyam, which she sacrificed for her family.

Khan was awarded with numerous awards and honours, including Padma Shri in 1975; Padma Bhushan in 1991; Padma Vibhushan in 2001 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1989. In 2003, the maestro received "Commander of the Order of Arts and letters" by the French Government and the Fukuoka Cultural grand prize in Japan in 2004. In April 2014, he was honored with NDTV Indian of the Year Award. The US state Massachusetts proclaimed 20 April as Amjad Ali Khan Day in 1984. Khan was made a honorary citizen of Houston, Texas, and Nashville, Tennessee, in 1997, and of Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 2007.

As a soul, so in his heart, he is a man who has proven his indomitable belief in the integration of two of life's greatest forces -- love and music. He is a living example of a man who practices that integration each day of his life, both on stage and off stage.

Once in a lifetime, once every year

SAURAV DEY

Beginning on Thursday night, The Bengal Classical Music Festival 2014 is now in full swing. Every night, a whopping number of people gather at the Army Stadium to be blown away by classical music -- and of course, to socialise. On Friday night, the turnout went past the 40,000 mark, most of who were youth -- and many of them were attending the festival for the first time.

For Anik Rahman, a youth in his late-twenties, attending the festival is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. "I missed the previous editions of festival as I was aboard. I knew that it was a big event but did not have idea about the splendour of this festival. It is fabulous since we get to see some of the most prominent maestros of classical music performing in front of our eyes."

Ahsan Habib, a first-year university student came at the festival with his friends. For him "It is a new experience. I



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON

A big fraction of the attendees are urban youths.

haven't seen such a programme in my life, and I think it will open a new horizon in the practice of classical music in our country. I have attended many concerts but never seen such arrangements and such an audience."

"It is hard to believe that classical music has been drawing this huge crowd in winter nights. The audience is from different age groups and different social strata but I think they have good taste of music. The food court is good; though it is a bit pricey they serve quality food. And you have choice," said Diya Islam, a private service holder.

Arafat Hassan, who came with his family said, "My mother loves music, so I brought her here. She is enjoying the festival while I am meeting my old friends. It is also a social gathering of people of the same taste. I have met many friends and acquaintances here, the ambience is amazing and everything is so neat and clean."

The festival has many sides; classical music is at the heart of the festival but it also draws people together and connects them, and Bengal Foundation deserves all the credit for bringing back 'once in a lifetime' experiences once every year.

PERFORMING TONIGHT at BCMF '14

The closing night's performances of the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2014 -- Bangladesh will open at 6:30pm today, with some 40 eminent Bangladeshi artistes rendering Bangla songs in chorus. The featured artistes of the night will perform solos next:



Vishal Krishna – Kathak



Ashwini Bhide Deshpande – Vocal



Vidushi Kishori Amonkar – Vocal



Pandit Uday Bhawalkar – Vocal



Ustad Amjad Ali Khan – Sarod



Moniruzzaman – Flute

বাংলাদেশ

মনে রাখি সাত বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ শহীদের আত্মহুতি। মনে রাখি অগণিত সেনানীর লড়াই।
কিন্তু তাঁদের যারা এগিয়ে যেতে দিল বুকে পাথর রেখে, তাঁদের জন্য যারা আত্মত্যাগ
করল, বাংলার সেইসব মা, বোন, স্ত্রী, কন্যাদেরও যেন মনে এঁকে রাখি।

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