

WHAT'S ON

Bengal Classical Music Festival
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Venue: Abhanai Field
 Date: December 26-30
 Time: Open onwards

Solo Photography Exhibition
 In Lalba
 Photographer: Saman Paul
 Venue: DLF Centre, Dhanmondi
 Date: December 10-21
 Time: 9:30am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: AH Dilul Ismail
 Venue: Shikhanagar Gallery, Dharmahandi
 Date: December 8-21
 Time: 12-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Beyond the Isolation
 Artist: Saadiah Hossain Nida
 Venue: Kala Kendra
 Date: Dec 15-16pm
 Time: 5-8pm

National Rabindra Sangeet Festival
 Organiser: BSSS
 Venue: Shaheed Smita Auditorium, Public Library
 Date: Dec 20-23, Time: 6pm

Classical Music Festival
 Organiser: Dhalyamurti
 Venue: Dhalyamurti Auditorium
 Date: December 21-22
 Time: 6pm

Bengal Classical Music Fest registration opens

ARTISTES' SCHEDULE ALSO RELEASED FOR 2017 EDITION

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The public registration for the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2017 opens today on the official festival website and though physical registration for those without access to internet.

The sixth edition of Bengal Foundation's mega event, which is deemed the world's biggest festival of classical music, is moving to Dhanmondi's Abhanai Grounds and is set to take place from December 26-30. Despite the cancellation and subsequent last-minute rescheduling, the lineup of the festival remains as strong as the past editions, with stalwarts of Indian Classical music taking part this year along with new elements of performance. The full day-to-day schedule of the festival was also revealed on the festival's website and social media prior to the opening of registration.

Like previous years, the festival is free of cost but registration is mandatory. Online registration may be done on the web site www.bengalclassicalmusicfest.com for a limited time, while off-site registration will also be possible at the Gyanpadas Abdur Razzak Bidyapeth at Dhanmondi Road 7/A. There will be no registration facilities on-site during the festival. Registration will remain open only for a limited time, as the capacity of the festival is also finite.

The programme will begin at 7pm every day and continue till dawn, as usual. The festival will open this year with a unique performance – a combination of Indian Classical and Western Classical music is being introduced for the first time to the festival). Virtuoso violinist Dr. L. Subramaniam and the 58-member Astana

The second day's performances will begin with another new addition to the festival – a dance company. The Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company will present Kathak to set off December 27's performances, followed by a group tabla recital by students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetay, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma (santoor), Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar

Vikku Vinayakram and Selvaganesh Vinayakram (ghatam and kanjeera), a group performance by students of Govt. Music College (khyal vocals), Abir Hossain (santoor), Gazi Abdul Hakim (flute), Pandit Uday Bhawalakar (dhrupad vocals) and Vidushi Kala Ramnath (violin). The night's final performer will be Pandit Ajoy Chakravarty (khyal vocals).

The fourth night's performance will begin with five Bangladeshi young dancers – Sweety Das, Amit Chowdhury, Snata Shahrin, Sudeesha Shyamaprabha, Mehraj Haque Tushar and Ziaurriyaz Mouti presenting "Nriya Chirantan", performing a collage of Manipuri, Bharatanatyam and Kathak. The following artistes on the day's bill are: students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetay (santoor), Ustad Rashid Khan (khyal vocals), Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar (santoor) and Dr. Mysore Manjunath (violin), Pandit Jasraj (khyal vocals), Saska Rao de-Haas (cello) and Pandit Budhaditya Mukherjee (sitar).

The final day's programmes (December 30) will be opened by Vidushi Sujata Mahapatra (Odissi), Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan veena), Brajwar Mukherjee (khyal vocals), Pandit Kushal Das and Kalyanji Das (sitar), Pandit Kaivalyakumar (khyal vocals) – and as has become the tradition in the past few years, the festival will close with a flute performance by Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia.

Although organisers say the schedule is subject to change without prior notice, judging by Bengal Foundation's repute, that's a stark rarity.



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Philharmonic Orchestra will raise the curtains of this year's event with a joint performance. The other performers of the night are Rajnaka Chowdhury (santoor), Vidushi Pama Talwar (khyal vocals), Firoz Khan (sitar), Supriya Das (khyal vocals), Rakesh Chaurasia (flue) and Purbayan Chatterjee (sitar).

(khyal vocals), Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan (sitar), Avijit Kundu (dhrupad vocals), Pandit Ronu Majumdar (flute) and Pandit Debojyoti Bose (santoor).

The third day will begin with a group sarod presentation by students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetay, followed by Vidyan

SHARALIPI: Rising singer releases new album



A CORRESPONDENT

The singer stanchly identifies herself with classical music, saying, "I believe that those that have classical training, can sing any genre of songs. But as an artiste, I don't approve of modern, fusion styles, and prefer to stick to melodies that reflect our country's traditions."

Aside from her singing ventures, the artiste is endorsing her skills to young learners. Recently appointed as a full time music teacher at Mastermind School, Dhaka, she works with children from grades 4-7. "It was quite challenging at first, because the children come from English medium backgrounds and are quite reluctant to learn traditional Bangla songs. We started very slow, but they have been making very good progress," she stated.

Children participate in art competition

WAR OF LIBERATION

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Around 100 children did sketches of the War of Liberation at an art competition organised by Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangghashala (art gallery) in Mymensingh at its premises marking the 47th Victory Day celebrations on December 16.

Children from class I to class X took part in the competition in four groups.

The subjects of the competition were – "Open Choice", "Freedom Fighters in Battle Field", "Celebration of Victory" and "Historic March 7th Speech by Bangabandhu".

Earlier, Mukul Dutta, deputy keeper of the art gallery inaugurated the competition. Artiste Professor Aminul Islam was present at the inaugural session, among others. In his inaugural speech, Dutta said, that through the art competition, children could learn about the history of the country's Liberation War.

Different socio-cultural and professional organisations and educational institutions including Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNU) also undertook elaborate programmes marking the day. Alokchitra Shilpi Sangsad (ASHIS) organised a day-long photo exhibition on Liberation War at town's Zainul Park to celebrate the day.

Mymensingh Press Club organised a discussion and cultural show at its auditorium Saturday evening. Professor Rezaul Islam, Professor Aliqur Rahman, Freedom Fighter Ziauddin Ahmed and Professor Rebecka Yeasmin took part in the discussion with veteran jour-



Young ones sit down to paint.

PHOTO: STAR

nalist AZM Imamuddin Mukta, also club vice-president in the chair. Press Club secretary Md Babul Hossain delivered the welcome speech while its Literary and Cultural secretary Md Aminul Islam anchored the programme.

The artistes of Uldichi Shilpi Goshti who performed on the occasion were Joyanti Biswas Jolly, Jishutosh Talukder, Sanat Ghose, Sanghamitra Kotha, Suprova Basak, Mehera Bormon, Pooja Tahader, Monira Debnath, Sayeda Binte Hamid, Anik Sarkar and Pritom Sarkar.

Supremely rare vinyl copies of Prince's "Black Album" surface

There's virtually no vinyl record in history more sought after by collectors than a genuine copy of Prince's "Black Album". Warner Bros. pressed approximately 500,000 copies of the album in late 1987, but ordered them all destroyed once Prince decided it was "vill" and should never see release. The label worked extremely hard to destroy every single copy, even asking executives to bring back advance CDs so they could be crushed, according to Rolling Stone magazine.

In late 1994, Prince briefly allowed his label to sell it on CD and cassette, but no vinyl copies were created. Only three American copies from the original 1987 vinyl pressing have surfaced in the past 30 years. "It is easily one of the rarest records in the world," says Jeff Gold, a former Warner Bros. Executive Vice President who now runs the music memorabilia store Record Mecca, "if not the rarest." Gold was therefore very skeptical

earlier this month when he got an email inquiry asking about the value of a sealed Black Album. "I naturally assumed it was a fake," he says, "but wrote a polite response back that one really couldn't tell if it was genuine unless you opened up the record and inspected it, and that almost all of them were unfortunately not authentic." But once he realized he was corresponding with someone he remembered from his days at Warner Bros. he knew they probably had a genuine item. "I couldn't believe it," he told Rolling Stone.

The story he heard from his old colleague stunned him. It turned out the man's daughter recently bought her first turntable and asked him to send her some records. He looked through some boxes that had been in a closet for 25 years and came across two sealed Warner Bros. mailers. Inside were five copies of Prince's "Black Album" in pristine condition. Three of them were sent to Gold

to sell for \$15,000 each. "I sold the first one with a single phone call to a client," he says. "I'm guessing the others will sell very quickly." The executive is keeping one and is contemplating selling another one at auction next year.

Now that Gold got his hands on multiple copies of the "Black Album", his thoughts have turned to a Prince record that's even harder to track down. "Recently, two test pressings of another never released Prince album, titled 'Camille', have surfaced and sold for huge amounts," he says. "Not much is known about it – I think it was probably something Prince pressed up himself, not made by Warner Bros. his label at the time. None of my former WB co-workers know anything about it. But if you're looking at actual finished records, the 'Black Album' is right at the top of the list of rarest record in the world."

Source: Rolling Stone

