

2017 in Bangla Music

2017 was a unique year for Bangladeshi music. Whereas very few albums were physically published, YouTube was the go-to platform for the listeners as well as producers. From big production companies to solo artists, the medium of choice for the publication of music was mostly based on streaming and social networking sites. The trend for this decade seemed to be the continued investment in music videos, and this was even more prominent this year.



Badhon & Sabina Yasmin

The audience was gifted with an album from the legendary Sabina Yasmin and her daughter Badhon called *Abar Dujone*. Ayub Bachchu startled the audience in the beginning of the year with his instrumental concert *Sound of Silence*, which was very rare in the context of Bangladesh. However, there weren't as many concerts as music lovers would have hoped for. However, what the audience did get were some exceptional album launching ceremonies. Among the younger artists, Xefer created waves with *Uncaged*, and the album launch was done in grand fashion at Star Cineplex. *Gonojagoron* marked the end of Nemesis's long hiatus when it came to originals tracks. Oyshee continues to dazzle with her powerful singing and a plethora of wonderful originals. Whereas the Folk Fest quenched the thirst for a



Xefer's *Uncaged*



Habib Wahid



Nooran Sisters at Dhaka International Folk Fest

large-scale concert, disappointment loomed over the postponing of the Bengal Classical Music Fest. Good news is that we are finally getting our much-beloved classical fest from 26th December onwards. Habib Wahid still maintains his popularity as he was among the leading pop artists of 2017. With tracks like *Ghum*, *Golaper Din*, *Tumi Amar* being hits among the mainstream audience, the momentum that he is carrying is likely to lead to a great 2018 for him as well. Minar is meanwhile setting YouTube on fire with *Karone Okaronne*, *Barabari* and *Hariye Kothay*.

By far, the saddest news of 2017 was the demise of Bari Siddiqui. The beloved folk bard had entertained us for years with his soulful singing and masterful flute playing.

By Zahid Akbar and Sadi Mohammad Shahnewaz



Nemesis's Gonojowar



Minar

FIVE MOST SIZZLING INTERNATIONAL TRACKS OF 2017

Shape of You by Ed Sheeran
Shape of You approached massive sales and streaming numbers, holding its lead as 2017's biggest single on the cusp of breaking 3 million combined sales. It was UK's most streamed songs of all time. Additionally, 21 weeks after the song debuted, it still ranked #1 in the Top 100 chart. This is a long-winded way of saying that *Shape of You* clearly resonated with millions of listeners this year. Its catchy, trop-house influenced sound was massively celebrated among its listeners. With this song, Ed became the 'sweetest thing on earth' to many girls.

Green Light by Lorde
Even though the esteemed producer Max Martin told Lorde that *Green Light* was a case of "incorrect songwriting", its chart position says something different. It was peaked #19 on the Hot 100 in its fourth week. Lorde and Jack Antonoff crafted a song that sticks in the brain from the first listen, lyrically and musically. The rollicking piano

was euphoric, its refrain was unforgettable. Yeah, she does have other hits but this song was the one you couldn't let go.

Despacito by Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee

Whether you are a Latin music lover or you can hardly speak any Spanish, it is likely you have had the same four

syllables suck in your head since Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee gifted *Despacito* to the world back in January. It is no secret that this irresistible hit had taken the world by storm, thanks to its catchy chorus and hummable riff. Though it was released months ago, the tropical vibe to *Despacito* made the track the title for Song of Summer 2017, undoubtedly.

Havana by Camila Cabello

Havana was recorded by the Cuban American singer Camila Cabello and had taken the internet by storm. It has the most enticing lyrics and music and that is why it is now in Top 5 in the charts. It was released on August 3, 2017 as a promotional single for debut studio album *Camila (2018)* but soon after its release it received a huge response from the audience. This Latin pop song captivated us with its appealing voice and meaningful lyrics for more than 3 months.

Slide by Calvin Harris

Since the moment of *Slide*'s release in February, this song had been played repeatedly, in a loop for an obnoxiously extended period of time. This song combined cool vocals from Frank Ocean with an upbeat, auto-tuned interlude from Quavo, topped the playlist of 2017. The groove of the music did fit into every type of setting or playlist, whether it is a laid-back weekend afternoon or at the height of a packed party!

