

## Rising young talent in the classical music scene

VERONICA GOMES

Johan Protik Rozario, a promising upcoming talent in the classical music scene, released his first CD titled, *Journey begins with Classical Music* at SFX Greenherald International School recently. The event consisted of prominent members of the classical music world of Bangladesh, including eminent music maestro and former Director General of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Azad Rahman alongside Usha Rahman, Founder Treasurer of Shuddh Sangit Prosher Gousthi and Anima Roy, Principal of Surbihar Music and Art School. Protik,

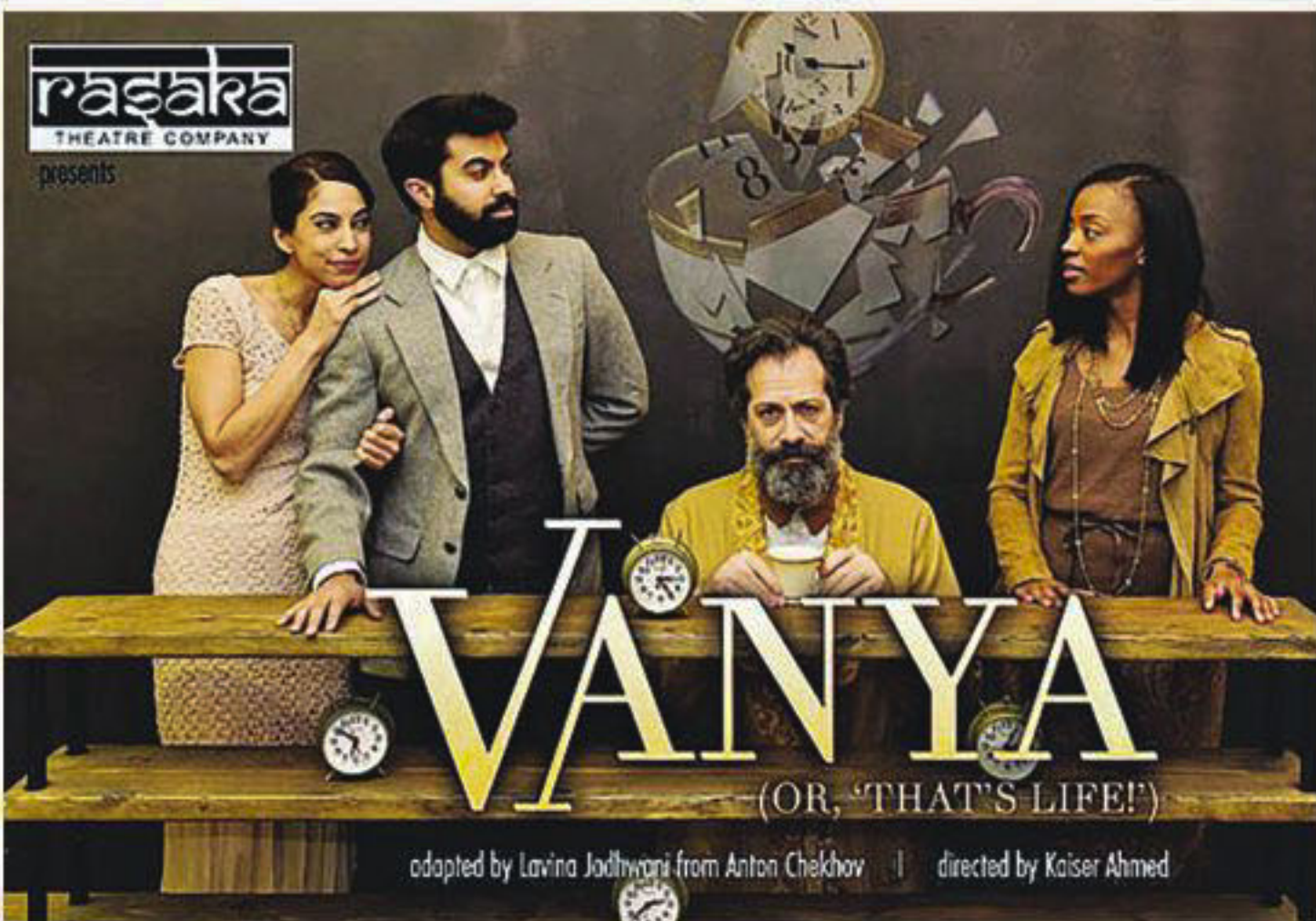


PHOTO: COURTESY

who is a ninth grader in SFX Greenherald International School, was brought up in a musically skilled family. He took up music as more than a mere passion from a really young age. He honed his talents further under the tutelage of Guru Swapan Kumar Biswas, who was also present at the event. The inauguration ceremony started off with a welcome speech from the Principal of SFX Greenherald International School, Sr Asha Virginia Gomes, followed by inspirational speeches from the honourable guests. Protik went on with thumri, topka and drut performances from his kheyal-centric album and ended the night with a Nazrul Sangeet. All in all, it was an enlightening night that showcased the capabilities of our country's young talents.



Jackalope Theatre's production, 'Washer Dryer'.



Jackalope Theatre's production, 'Vanya'.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Kaiser Ahmed talks theatre

*Kaiser Ahmed was born in Bangladesh, but soon moved to Michigan, USA with his family. He went to Chicago in 2004 to join the theatre community, where he thrived as the founding artistic director of Jackalope Theatre Company. The Daily Star catches up with Kaiser for a brief interview.*

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

What made you select this profession at such a young age?

I am an alumni of Columbia College Chicago's Theatre Directing programme, under the mentorship of Sheldon Patinkin. I actually tried out acting before I turned to theatre direction. However, the latter inspired me a lot, and brought out the best in me. I also noticed that older people who are past their prime in acting usually take up this art, so you could say that I was an exception to that trend. Every time I worked as an actor, I subconsciously wanted more control of the entire play. This paved the way for me to eventually become the founding artistic director for Jackalope Theatre.

Tell us about some of your notable work with Jackalope Theatre.

Our productions *Washer/Dryer*, *Vanya* (*That's Life*) and the Jeff nominated *1980* (*Why I'm Voting for John Anderson* among many other plays are very well-received by the media,



Kaiser Ahmed

along with my input in staging, lighting and other aspects of theatre direction. You eventually left the post of artistic director in 2011 to become Jackalope's

associate director. Why is that?

I feel like if someone holds the same position for a long period of time, the power eventually turns to ego, and that is never good for the troupe itself. We always put the company before individual prowess, and I wanted to keep reinventing myself as a professional. I am also an artistic associate at the Artistic Home Theatre Company since 2005.

Did you get the opportunity to observe the theatre scene in Bangladesh during your visit here?

I wouldn't say I could grasp the situation of the scene, but I will say that the way theatre is run here is vastly different from that in the US. The acting, direction and everything else is a lot more emotive, including a noticeable increase in hand gestures. Back there, we are a lot more subtle when it comes to our themes. I guess that reflects the difference in sentiments of both countries. I would love to try staging a play here if I get the chance to.

## WHAT'S ON

**An Ode to the Moon & Menstrual Cycle**  
Title: LAL  
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani  
Date: February 19 - 23  
Details:

### Live Performance

Title: Tagore recital with Joyita  
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani  
Date: Today  
Entry: 300 BDT (200 BDT with a valid student ID)  
Details:

Joyita  
FRIDAY  
JANUARY 25 2019  
ENTRY AND BDT  
1PM SHOW STARTS



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: The Brilliant Moon  
Artist: Ifat Ara Dewan  
Venue: Gallery Shilpangan, Lalmatia  
Date: Jan 15-28

### Musical Evening

Title: Cafe Shanchayita Presents Notun Aloye Cha Chakra  
Venue: Cafe Shanchayita, Banani  
Date: January 26  
Time: 10:30 am - 7:30 pm  
Contact: +880 1672-704823, +880 1824-850938



**Group Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Preceptor-Disciple: Disciple-Preceptor  
Artists: Malay Bala, Zahangir Alom & Amit Nandi  
Venue: La Galerie, AFD  
Date: Jan 18 - Feb 1  
Time: 3 - 9 pm (Mon-Thurs) & 9 am-12 noon

### Theatre

Title: Macbeth (presented by Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Dhaka)  
Venue: Natmondal, University of Dhaka & Jatiya Natyashala, BSA  
Date: Jan 28-31 (Natmondal, University of Dhaka); Feb 2-4 (Jatiya Natyashala, BSA)  
Time: 6:30 pm (Natmondal, University of Dhaka); 7



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Dhaka Live Art Biennale takes off with a two-day workshop

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Dhaka Live Art Biennale, an international event organised by Back ART Foundation, has returned this year. The biennial event started off in 2017 with an aim to turn art into a social practice, thereby narrowing down the gap between art and public and to interact with the local and global artist communities.

Live Art includes performance art, experimental approach to theatre, voice art, action-based art, experimental movement in dance and other forms of performances in front of an audience.

The twenty-five-day (January 21-February 14) art extravaganza begins on January 21 with 8 performance art workshops. Artist and art critic Mustafa

Zaman and Nazia Andaleeb Preema conducted the workshop that began at Zainul Gallery 1 and 2, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU). The formal opening of the biennale will take place on January 31 at Bakultala, FFA, DU at 5pm.

More than 100 artists from 24 countries including Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sri Lanka, USA, UK and Vietnam are expected to participate in the biennale that will take place at several venues around the DU campus area like Zainul Gallery, Swimming Pool, Curzon Hall, Suhrawardy Udyan, Beauty Boarding and Ruplal House (Old Dhaka).

Diversity and multiculturalism are aspects that the organisers seek to address at the biennale. Back ART Foundation focuses on cultural diversity by bringing artists of various inclinations and nationalities to Dhaka. They attempt to answer the issues pertaining to the environment and to focus on awareness development through performance art. They further seek to connect communities across the city of Dhaka so that they develop an understating of diversity and harmony and focus on mythology and ritual-based activities.

Dhaka Live Art Biennale intends to create a common space for global live artists with Bangladeshi ones. It is expected to benefit the local art scene in many ways and be edifying in its processes.

## Sangeet Utshab at Dhaka University



PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZI

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Department of Music, University of Dhaka (DU), will hold a two-day music festival Sangeet Utshab 2018 at TSC from January 27-28. This year, the festival will include cultural programmes, along with different workshops on music.

Renowned artists from India including Alok Chattopadhyay, Biswajit Sahu, and Arup Dey are invited to attend the event. Dr Chintaka P Meddegoda, from Srilanka,

is also expected to attend the festival.

The festival will begin with a Bangla song, performed by three hundred students of DU. Vice-Chancellor of DU, Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman will inaugurate the event as the chief guest. Special guests of the event include Acting High Commissioner of India in Dhaka, Dr Adarsh Swaika, director general (DG) of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Liaquat Ali Lucky, and DG of Bangladesh Betar, Narayan Chandra Shil, among others.



From today, Deepto TV will be telecasting the renowned detective serial of Sherlock Holmes, dubbed in Bangla. Known for his meticulous ability to solve the most difficult of crimes, Sherlock Holmes along with his partner Dr Watson, garnered a worldwide fan base. The show, based on the books by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is scheduled to air every Friday at 8:45 pm.