

Septemeber 19-20, 2025

NORTHEAST INDIA HERITAGE FESTIVAL

A dancer representing the Khangchendzonga deity performs during the Pang Lhabsol festival at Rabong Monastery. (Photo by Agniswar Kansabanik – Discover India's Northeast).



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Rugged snow-capped mountains up close add to the beauty of Yumthang Valley.



FRIDAY EVENT DETAILS

Address: 93 W Weisheimer
Rd, Columbus, OH 43214, USA

9/19 (5PM-8:30PM)

Location: Main Hallway

- Registration Desk and Tourism Information
- Photography Exhibit I

Location: Worship Hall

- Photography Exhibit II
- Cultural Program 7PM-8:30PM
- Music from Northeast India and the United States of America: Youth Jazz Band; The Ohio State University Participants: Rishav Barua (trumpet), Andrew Theiss (drum), Perry Kral (bass), and Victor Madelaine (guitar)
- Lokogeet: Regional songs from Assam. Dibyasri, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
- Rhythm & Devotion: Pung cholam (Manipuri drum) workshop. Jagannath Lairenjam & Sanjib Bhattacharya

Delicacies from Assam & Manipur

Location: Cafeteria 5PM -6.30PM

Tea: Complementary

All snacks for purchase

- Til pitha (sweet dessert made with black sesame seeds and jaggery wrapped in sticky rice powder)
- Narikolor pitha (sweet dessert made with coconut and sugar wrapped in sticky rice powder)
- Manipuri vegetarian snacks

Handloom & Handicraft Exhibits

Location: Beach Hall

- Festival Photo Booth
- Vendors (Clothing and Jewelry)
- Terracotta dolls from Asharikandi Village, Dhubri, India
- Henna Tattoo: Traditional Indian Beauty Art by Neena



SATURDAY EVENT DETAILS

9/20 10AM-9:30 PM

Location: Main Hallway

- Registration Desk and Tourism Information
- Photography Exhibit I

Location: Worship Hall

- Photography Exhibit II
- Panel Discussion 10AM-11.30AM:
 - Arunachal Pradesh: Raj Sutar
 - Assam: Chandan Mahanta
 - Manipur: Jerina Ngangom
 - Meghalaya: Josephine Sawian Syiem
 - Mizoram: Dr. Vanlarinchhani Varte
 - Nagaland: Rozumari Samsara
 - Sikkim: Mamta Somani
 - Tripura: Dr. Saikat Chakraborty
- Moderator: Jay Barua & Dr. Hans Utter

Location: Worship Hall

- Workshop: 11:30AM-12.30PM
- Assam: Musical Instruments & Bihu dance (Utpola Borah & Jublee Handique)

Manipur: Musical Instruments & Dance (Jagannath Lairenjam & Sanjib Bhattacharya)

Cultural Event Opening Ceremony: 4:30PM-9:30PM

- Lectures from the NY Consulate Office and Kishore Seram
- Hans & Utpola: Vote of Thanks
- Borgeet and Ghoxa by Sacred Music students
- "Guru Pratishtha" Manipuri Dance
- Rabha Geet Dance by Ohio Axomiya Konmani
- Jeng Bihu by Ohio Assamese Ladies
- Bardoi Shikhla by Dibyasri Barman
- Koch Rajbonshi Dance by Sai Nriya Sangam group
- Folk Song of Meghalaya by Wandalin Phanbuh, Josephine Sawian Syiem & Aurelia Syngkon (voice)
Hans Utter & Jerine (guitar)
- Naga Poetry Recitation by Rozumari Samsara
- Hans Utter Jazz Trio: Arkadiy Gips (Violin), Bradley Mellen (Cello), Hans Utter (Guitar)

Location: Cafeteria

LUNCH 12:30PM-2PM

All Meals for Purchase

- Manipur specialty food
- Chefs: Tarana Ngangom and Jerina Ngangom

Location: Beach Hall

- Festival Photo Booth
- Vendors (Clothing and Jewelry)
- Terracotta dolls from Asharikandi Village, Dhubri, India
- Henna Tattoo: Traditional Indian Beauty Art by Neena

ATTIRE WALK: 2PM-3:30PM

200 years of Assam Tea: 3:30PM-4:30

DINNER: 5:30PM-7:30PM

PANELIST

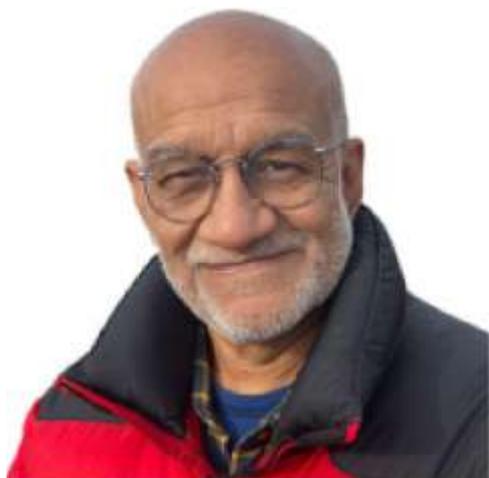
INTRODUCTIONS

Panel will be held on Saturday, 9/20 from 10AM-11:30AM in the Worship Room

I'm Raj Sutar. I was born in 1971 in Bomdila, a small town in Arunachal Pradesh's East Kameng district. I have 5 siblings and all of them were born in Arunachal. When I was two, we moved to Itanagar/Naharlagun — where I grew up playing with friends, swimming in local rivers, and letting nature be my playground. I often walked miles through the forest to collect firewood — because that's how we cooked. There were countless picnics on riverbanks with family and friends, cooking meat and rice inside bamboo. I attended KV School in Naharlagun and graduated from Itanagar High School in 1989. Then I went to engineering college in Bangalore and started my career there. In 2001, I married Rekha from Biswanath Chariali, Assam — my wife, my best friend, and the only person who truly knows that good Northeast food is my greatest weakness.



We've been in the USA for over 24 years, moving from Milwaukee to Columbus in 2015. Our daughter Anishka is at the University of Cincinnati, and our son Kiaan is a high school freshman. Life has taken me far from Arunachal, but the rivers, friends, and flavors of my childhood are still with me — and always will be.



Chandan K. Mahanta is a retired architect based in St. Louis, Missouri. Originally from Namti, Assam, he studied at Namti High School, Don Bosco High School in Guwahati, and Cotton College before earning his degree in architecture from IIT Kharagpur in 1968. He emigrated to the United States in 1970.

Mahanta is married to Dr. Banti (née Bharali) of Guwahati. They have two children—a son and a daughter—and four grandchildren. Following his retirement from architectural practice, he has devoted himself full-time to his many interests, including watercolor painting, photography, gardening, native plant landscaping, and beekeeping.

I, Jerina Ngangnom, am from Manipur, a jewel of India's northeast often called the "Switzerland of the East." Nestled in lush green valleys and surrounded by blue hills, Manipur is a land where nature and tradition exist in perfect harmony. It is the birthplace of Polo, home to the mesmerizing Loktak Lake with its floating islands (phumdis), and alive with the grace of the Ras Leela, dances that tell timeless stories of devotion. Growing up in this culturally rich and beautiful land shaped my values of resilience, creativity, and grace.

I completed my schooling in Manipur before moving to Thriveni Academy, Tamil Nadu, for my 11th and 12th grades. Drawn to technology, I pursued Electrical and Electronics Engineering at the Government College of Technology, Coimbatore. After working in Hyderabad for a few years, I moved to California in 2003 to pursue my Master's in Computer Science at Northwestern Polytechnic University.

I worked as a Software Engineer at Disney Studios, but retired from the tech world when motherhood became my priority. My deep love for children naturally led me to my current profession as a preschool teacher in Scotts Valley, California, where I find immense joy nurturing and inspiring young minds. Outside of work, I am passionate about fitness, health, and cooking, and dream of opening my own restaurant one day.



Josephine Sawian Syiem (née Sawian) is an educator, former IAS officer, mother and grandmother. Josephine graduated from Guwahati University, St. Mary's College, Shillong, attaining first place in B.A. English Honors. After finishing her M.A. in English from Delhi University, Josephine returned to Shillong and taught English for several years at St. Mary's College. She completed her B. Ed. from North Eastern Hill University, with Distinction and a gold medal. Josephine changed careers to become the first Khasi woman to join the IAS, general cadre. She worked in Assam, and in Jaintia Hills and East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya. Marriage and motherhood led Josephine to leave the IAS and devote herself to her children. She completed

her MBA from California Polytechnic University, and returned to teaching in private school and college. Josephine has over 30 years of teaching experience and continues to teach college parttime. She enjoys teaching, reading, gardening, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Dr. Vanlalrinchhani Varte, a native of Mizoram, India, is a neuroscientist currently serving as an Adjunct Assistant Scientist in the Department of Biology at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Her research is characterized by its interdisciplinary nature, focusing on neurodegenerative disease, particularly Alzheimer's disease (AD), using Drosophilamodels. This approach has allowed her to bridge basic research with clinical applications, advancing translational neuroscience.

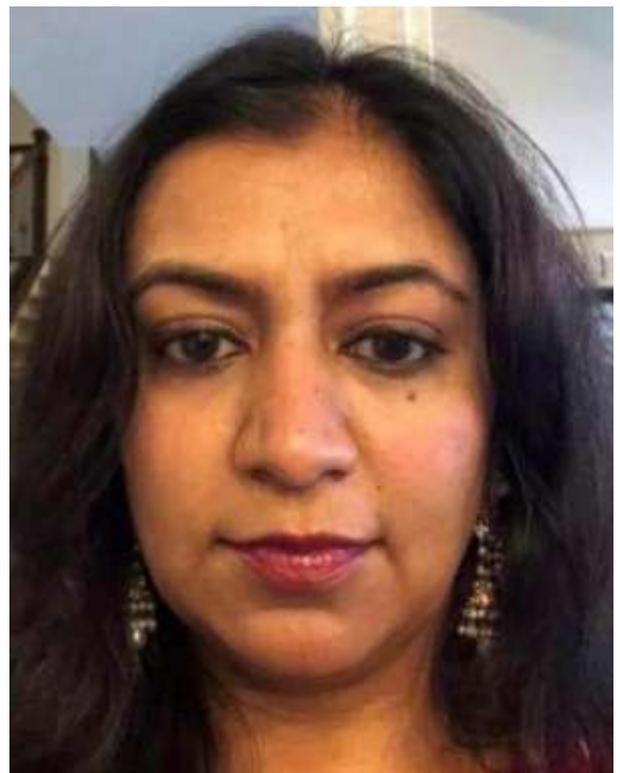


**Rozumari
Samsara**

graduated from Delhi University, The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology and later from Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany. She worked with several international organizations before studying physical theater at The Commedia School, Copenhagen. She was the first runner-up at the Copenhagen English Poetry Slam 2016, her poems have featured in Tokyo Poetry Journal, Outlook India's Poetry as Evidence, Zubaan Books and Ohio Bards Poetry Anthology. She is a performing artist

and the debut author of a poetry book memoriographia, she lives in Kent, Ohio. Email: rzuma2020@gmail.com

I am Mamta Somani born and raised in the former kingdom of Sikkim, in the eastern Himalayas. Bordering with Bhutan, China and Nepal making it culturally diverse. I attended school in Gangtok, capital of Sikkim. I still can't forget the beautiful Kanchenjunga peeping through the clouds every morning when I opened my windows gleaming when sunrays fell on it. Life used to be so simple back then. We used to walk 3 miles to school and used to be happy and appreciate every small gifts that my parents gave. Together with my 3 siblings during cold weather we used to tug each other tight in the nights and sleep. From the world's largest lakes, breathtaking views of snowcapped Himalayas steep valleys, glooming with flowers, Sikkim has everything that one longs for to have in nature along with that monasteries and beautiful shrines for all worshippers. I moved to USA in 2001 and currently residing in Fishers, Indiana with my husband, son & pet. I love doing meditation, volunteering for social cause, reading and listening on wisdom, cooking, yoga, Ayurveda, Interior Designing, hiking being with nature. Currently working as Program Delivery Lead, Operations, Humana along with that studying in Purdue university and residing Fishers, Indiana.



My name is Dr. Saikat Chakraborty, and I am originally from Agartala, Tripura. After completing my higher secondary education, I moved to Bangalore, where I earned my undergraduate and master's degrees in Agriculture and Microbiology. I then pursued my Ph.D. in Molecular Biology in Japan before moving to the United States in 2008. Over the years, I have worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher at institutions including Indiana University, Harvard Medical School, Stony Brook Medicine, and the Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. Currently, I serve as a Principal Research Scientist at Elanco in Indiana



An Apatani woman in Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh. Apatani women follow the custom of tattooing their faces and have followed the tradition of facial modification by plugging their noses with wood. Today's generation no longer wear these nose plugs, but this custom has been an integral part of its cultural history. (Photo by Tom Meitei -- Discover India's Northeast).

PERFORMANCE AND PERFORMER INFORMATION

BORGEET PERFORMERS (6:00PM)

Borgeet composed by Saint Srimanta Sankardeva

Song lyrics:

“Gopale ki goti ki koile Gobinde. Ki moti dile”

What did Gopal do? what advice did he give oh Lord Narayana, I have become lost in the illusion of this world and I have lost remembrance of your name.

“Ghoxa (Devotional/Spiritual song) Composer: Kalaguru Bishnu Rabha

Song lyrics:

“Jay Raghuranandan hain Raghava Rame jai Raghuranandana”

Hail Lord Sri Rama, the King of Raghubansh, Glory to Thee

Anika

Anika is 10 years old and absolutely loves singing. She's been learning Hindustani classical music since she was just three, which is pretty amazing when you think about it. Her Guru/mentor Dr. Utpola Borah, has a very deep knowledge in the Indian classical Hindustani music. It all started when her parents noticed something special about little Anika - she could hear a complicated movie song once and sing it back perfectly. They knew they had to find her a proper teacher because classical music takes years and years to learn properly. But don't think Anika is all serious all the time! She's still a regular kid who loves adventure books and playing volleyball, tennis, competitive swimmer and a lead guitarist in the rock band. Her playful personality actually makes her singing more expressive and natural. Anika has been performing at community events from a tender age; Asian Festival, Bharatiya Hindu temple, Sai Temple & Hanuman Temple. Audience are always amazed by how much feeling she puts into her performances. Her one of the big dreams is to become a professional singer someday and share the beauty of Indian classical music with people everywhere.

Arun Davis

A passionate singer from Kerala, has been dedicated to the art of Hindustani classical vocals for the past five years under the Dr. Utpola Borah. With a deep love for music rooted in tradition, Arun's journey began as a personal exploration of melody and rhythm but has since grown into a disciplined practice and heartfelt expression. His training in Hindustani vocals has shaped his voice with clarity, strength, and emotive depth, allowing him to convey the nuances of ragas with both technical precision and soul. Arun draws inspiration from the timeless beauty of Indian classical music while also embracing modern influences, creating a unique style that resonates with diverse audiences. Whether performing in intimate gatherings or cultural events, he brings authenticity and passion to every note. For Arun, music is more than performance—it is a lifelong pursuit of growth, devotion, and connection through the universal language of song.

Amiya Ghosh, PhD.

Grew up in a small village, where received his initial vocal training from his father in Indian classical music. His formal voice training in Sugam Sangeet started under Guru Satyen Mahanty. Currently learning Hindustani classical music under Dr. Utpola Borah, along with his wife and he has been regularly performing at community event in Ohio. For the past two years, Amiya performed with the Bengali community, Prayas, the Bharatiya Hindu Temple, Shirdi Sai Temple, and the Asian Festival in Columbus. Amiya wishes to continue this lifelong musical journey with the same passion and dedication. Dr. Ghosh is a Research Assistant Professor and expert in the field of biomedical research, The Ohio State University.

Kavyasree Chintalapudi, Ph.D.

Started her vocal training in Carnatic music under Smt. Pallavi and Ms. Laxmi (Aswapuram, Telangana, India). Due to her passion for singing and learning music, she resumed her vocal training with Hindustani and semi-classical music training under the auspices of Dr. Utpola Borah, Columbus, Ohio, USA. She loves to sing and uses every opportunity to participate in various cultural programs. She is currently working as an Advisor at Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.

Mithu De, Ph.D.

An accomplished Rabindra Sangeet performer. Disciples of Abhijit Chattopadhyay, Dr. Chitrlekha Chowdhury & Santosh Dutta of Kolkata. She performed in number of Indian cultural events in India & USA. Mithu resumed her Hindustani classical music lesson under the supervision of Guru Dr. Utpola Borah few months back. Mithu is a biomedical researcher at the Ohio State University. She received her doctoral degree in Pharmaceutical Technology from Bose Institute, Kolkata, India.

Shalini Krishnan

Shalini is a versatile and talented musician, playing a wide array of musical instruments, and she also possesses a beautiful, melodious voice. She is an integral part of weekly community signing group, where she sings and plays instruments, bringing an atmosphere of spiritual connection and joy to the community. In addition to leading devotional singing, she also specializes in Veda chanting, and her expertise in this area has made her an invaluable resource to the center. Shalini is an apprentice of Dr. Utpola Borah under the Ohio Arts Council's Traditional Arts Program.

Shibi Likhite, Ph.D. (Harmonium)

Dr. Shibi Likhite is persistent follower of the Indian classical music since his early years. A disciple of Smt. Ranjana Godse, he has an extensive training in Harmonium and has completed his Visharad in North Indian classical music. Dr. Likhite is an accomplished concert performer and has accompanied various artists and groups across India and USA. Dr. Likhite is also a music composer/arranger, director and producer. He is the co-director, music arranger and producer of the first ever Indian classical musical drama in US (Sangeet: Yayati Aani Devayani). Dr. Likhite holds a Doctorate degree in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology from The Ohio State University, USA. Currently, he is working as a Senior Research Scientist at the Nationwide Children's Hospital. Email: likhiteshibi@gmail.com



"Guru Pratishtha" (6:30PM)

Showcases a vibrant tapestry of Manipuri dance, seamlessly blending traditional artistry with innovative choreography. Presented as a bouquet of captivating movements and expressive motions, the performance features revered compositions such as Natya Sankirtan, Raas Lila, and Festival Dances of Manipur, all brought to life under the guidance of Guru Bipin Singh and Padmasree Darshana Jhaveri. This presentation exemplifies the rich cultural heritage of Manipuri Traditional dance while embracing modern creative expressions.

Jagannath Lairenjam

A senior Pung Cholom exponent and New York Foundation of Arts awardee and a distinguished Manipuri dance artist trained under renowned maestros in India and globally. He is also a Sankirtan specialist, performing worldwide as an esteemed accompanist of Manipuri cultural traditions.

Sanjib Bhattacharya

A renowned Manipuri dance exponent and awardee of the President's Awards, has trained under legendary maestros and performed extensively across India and globally. He has been based in Cleveland since 2017 and recently moved to Bay Area CA, he is a celebrated choreographer, teacher, and founder of Movements in Motion, conducting workshops and dance therapy across the USA and abroad. His pioneering work bridges traditional Manipuri dance with contemporary practices, inspiring audiences and students worldwide.

Rabha geet dance: "Ohio Axomiya Konmani (Assamese young children)" (7:00PM)

Participants: Tvesha Mahanta (9), Atharv Barman (6), Erisha Mahanta (5) and Anaisha Barman (4).



Jeng Bihu by Ohio Assamese Ladies, Ohio (7:10PM)

Participants: Mitali Barman, Prajwalita Hazarika Mahanta, Sukanya Das Chetia & Tina Barua.

Bardoi Shikhla (Bardwi shikhla) of Bodo community (7:20PM)

Dibyasri Barman, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Bardoi Shikhla (Bardwi Shikhla) is a folk dance of the Boro/Bodo community associated with the springtime festival Bwisagu, based on the folklore of a legendary fairy of the Bardoi Shikhla or Bardwi Shikhla. The fairy has the power to control wind and water to create rain, hailstorms and thunder. She comes in the spring season and rejuvenates the surroundings. Trees and plants blossom and greenery appear everywhere. She is commemorated to welcome the monsoon by the Bwisagu (spring) festival around mid-April to mid-May. Bardwi Shikhla dance form is the enactment of her nature.

Koch Rajbonshi Dance by Sai Nritya Sangam group (7:30PM)

Song lyrics:

Bhaloo koriya bajango dutara Sundari Komola nache

Play the dotara (two string instrument) properly, beautiful lady Komola is dancing

Participants: Tanamala Bhanse, Ipsita Mohapatra, Jayeeta Sen, Zinia Roy & Sunita Bansal.

Koch-Rajbongshi, an indigenous community from Lower Assam, North Bengal, eastern Bihar, Terai region of eastern Nepal, Rangpur Division of North Bangladesh and Bhutan who have in the past sought an association with the Koch dynasty. Koch-Rajbanshi people speak Kamatapuri, an Indo-Aryan language. They are also known as Koch Rajbonshi or Rajbanshi. Music & dance are an integral part of Koch-Rajbonshi community.

The musical genres are Bhawaiyya, Chatka, Lahankari etc., musical instruments such as dotara, sarinda, bena (strings), dhak, dhol, Shikhla is a traditional folk dance of the Bodo community of Assam, which symbolizes the advent of monsoon. Based on the folklore of a legendary fairy named Bardwi Shikhla. The fairy has the power to control wind and water to create rain, hailstorms and thunder. She comes in the spring season and rejuvenates the surroundings. Trees and plants blossom and greenery appear everywhere. She is commemorated to welcome the monsoon by the Bwisagu festival (spring festival).

Narayani Mukherjee



Narayani Mukherjee is a dedicated Odissi, and semi-classical dance teacher and choreographer based in Columbus, Ohio. She began her formal training in Odissi in 2012 under Dr. Kaustavi Sarkar and continues to study and explore the form with care and commitment. In 2016, she founded Sai Nritya Sangam, a community-centered dance studio where she teaches both classical Odissi and semi-classical Indian dance. Her teaching focuses on helping students understand the rhythm, expression, and grace that define these styles. Whether preparing for a performance or learning just for the joy of it, her students are encouraged to connect deeply with the meaning behind the movements. Narayani's classes are thoughtful, expressive, and rooted in tradition, while also offering space for creativity and interpretation. Through her work, she hopes to share the beauty of Indian dance and create a

space where students feel inspired, connected, and proud of the art they are learning.

Folk song of Meghalaya

Wandalin Phanbuh, Josephine Sawian Syiem & Aurelia Syngkon (voice) Hans Utter & Jerine (guitar)

Song lyrics "*U Paid Khasi Baiar*"

This is a powerful cultural anthem that celebrates the unity and identity of the four major Khasi subgroups: Khyntiam, Pnar, Bhoi, and War. These groups together form the Khasi Baiar, meaning "the wider Khasi people." The song is often performed at festivals and cultural gatherings to reinforce pride in shared heritage. The song emphasizes that although the Khasi people are spread across different regions and speak different dialects, they are one person. It honors the traditions, values, and ancestral wisdom of the Khasi Baiar. References to Mother Earth reflect the community's deep spiritual roots. The lyrics urge younger generations not to forget their origins and to uphold the Khasi way of life.

Naga Poetry Recitation by Rozumari Samsara

Rōzumārī Samsāra (born rosemary kikon, in Nagaland, India) graduated from Delhi University, The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology and later from Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany. She worked with several international organizations before studying physical theater at The Commedia School, Copenhagen. She was the first runner-up at the Copenhagen English Poetry Slam 2016, her poems have featured in Tokyo Poetry Journal, Outlook India's Poetry as Evidence, Zubaan Books and Ohio Bards Poetry Anthology. She is a performing artist and the debut author of a poetry book *memoriographia*, she lives in Kent, Ohio.

**Hans Utter Jazz trio: Music of Northeast India & more (8:20PM)
by Hans Utter (guitar) featuring Bradley Mellon (cello), Arkadiy Gips (violin)**

Arkadiy Gips (Violin)

Gips began performing with chamber and symphony orchestras as well as performing solo acts. Being a laureate of many national and international music competitions, he continued his education and graduated from the Rostov Music Conservatory. He became a well-known violinist in Eastern Europe where he played with a variety of orchestras. His performances included Ukrainian, Jewish, Gypsy, Hungarian and Polish music. In addition to ethnic music, his interests varied, among them country, folk and jazz. In the U.S., Arkadiy has performed with many noted musicians, playing jazz and country in addition to ethnic and classical styles of music. Today, Arkadiy not only plays, but conducts, arranges and composes music. Arkadiy's trio "Amazing Strings" with keyboardist Roman Zhuravlov and vocalist Lyudmila Smirnov have captivated the hearts of audiences in the U. S. and Canada. When on tour with the critically acclaimed play, "Fiddler on the Roof," Theodore Bikel was so spellbound by "Amazing Strings", that he nearly missed his stage call! Many years of performing with "Amazing Strings" resulted with the release of "Yidishe Soul," "Amazing Strings" first CD.



Arkadiy was featured on another CD, "American Gypsy," with internationally recognized composer and 12-string guitarist, Neil Jacobs, and award-winning bassist John Douglas. The CD was nominated "Album of the Year" by the American Independent Music Awards. Both Gips and Jacobs have extensive knowledge of Balkan and Slavic folk music and have performed with and composed for the internationally acclaimed group "Zivili" on numerous occasions, including a memorable journey into the Balkans performing for refugees and culminating in a major concert in the war-ravaged center of Sarajevo. A splendid duet "Dialogue," with Arkadiy Gips and pianist and composer, Mikhail Popov, has been known for years all over U.S. for their combination of magnificence and dynamic rhythm. Their self-titled CD, "Dialogue," is as much popular as their live performances. Arkadiy's interests are far more than only music. His long-time dream to make a theatrical performance of Jewish music with the stories of real Jewish people was finally fulfilled in several performances, "Candle of Life," "To America with Hope". Arkady recently performed with Madonna on both legs of her recent 2008-2009 World Tour.

Bradley Mellen (Cello)

Bassist and cellist Bradley Mellen is a fixture of the Columbus, Ohio music scene, where he has been active for over two decades. His lyrical, inquisitive approach to both bass lines and melodies, combined with his versatility and wide-ranging interests, have kept him working with a great variety of musical projects. Recent appearances have included recurring engagements with virtuoso pianist Tony Hagood, fusion jazz guitarist Alex Schrock, international vocalist Laura Camara, and Latin-jazz outfit Clave Sonic. Other associations have



included adding his musical voice to the unique world-jazz-fusion of Hans Utter's Chakra, navigating the challenging original compositions of Ken Messer's Phoenix Project, and accompanying vocalists such as local favorite

Hans Utter (Guitar)

Hans's unique guitar style blends bebop, fusion, and classical influences with a wide range of world music elements. His unique musical background combines professional experience in diverse styles including jazz, rock, electronic music, and as well as orchestral composition with over 15 years of performance and study of Indian music. Beginning in 1993, Hans lived in India, studying with some of the great living masters of Indian Classical Music, including Ustad Shujaat Khan, Sharad Shaia, Pt. Indra Lal Dandra, and Pt. N. Rajam. Touring with the group Turkana and Latif Bolait expanded his musical horizons to include Arabic, Persian, and Central Asian styles. He performs regularly in the United States, India, and Europe, and is the recipient of sixteen national and international awards and grants, including the Louis Armstrong Outstanding Musician award, and was recently appointed as an Ohio Arts Council Artist in Residence.

As a band leader his projects include Mood Swing, MLQ, Utter Space, and the Hans Utter Trio. His recent releases include Pure Land (2012) with his group Chakra and Morning and Evening Mediations (2013) featuring Steve Gorn. His compositions have been featured on National Public Radio, ABC, Tajik



National Radio, and several Indian networks. He has performed and recorded with artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Jim Hall, John Abercrombie, Public Enemy Dr. Dre, Latif Bolat, Kalyan Pathak, Ravish Mohan, Steve Gorn and Moussa Dieng Kala. He performs regularly in the United States, India, and Europe.

He holds a Doctorate degree in Ethnomusicology from The Ohio State University, has taught ethnomusicology at The Ohio State University and Capital University, and lectures frequently around the

world on various topics including Sufism, Indian and Central Asian music.

VOTE OF THANKS

An acknowledgement to those who have helped facilitate this event to spread knowledge about the beauty of Northeast India Culture.

Central Ohio Bengali Cultural Committee

Columbus School of Art & Design

Consulate General of India, New York

Delaware Library

First Unitarian Universalist Church, Columbus, Ohio

Greater Columbus Arts Council

Geminna Design & Fashion

Greater Columbus Arts Council

Naga American Foundation

Ohio Arts Council

Ohio Assamese Community

The Ohio State University

Tara Bhuyan Couture

Traditional Indian Beauty Art by Neena, Ohio

Westerville Library

Ohio Wesleyan University

California

Jerina Ngangom, Jerine Ahmed, Josephine Sawian Syiem, Tarana Ngangom, Jerine Ahmed, Wanda Phanbuh

Chicago

Lalita Kalita

Florida

Atreyee Gohain and Srishti Gohain

Indiana

Kavyashree Chintalapudi, Mamta Sonami, Saikat Chakraborty and Sharmitha Bhattacharya

Kentucky

Amrita Talukdar, Joyee Dutt & Navaneet Dutt

Maryland

Aleesha Bora

Missouri

Chandan & Bonty Mohanta

New Jersey

Shakuntala Balasubramanin

Ohio

Anamika Lodh, Amiya Ghosh, Ann Fazzini, Arun Davis, Aurelia Syngkon, Deb Baillieul, Donald Utter, Katherine, Miriam Utter, Manoj Deuri, Mitali Barman, Mithu Dey, Pranab Kumar Barman, Rekha Chettri Sutar, Kavita Subba, Rozumari Samsara, Savana Hardesty, Senti Longkumer, Shalini Krishnan, Shibi Likhite
Sonali Basu Kaul and Lt Gen SK Kaul

The Ohio State University

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Philadelphia

Panchalee & Sandeep Phookan

Tennessee

Gina Barua & Jay Barua

Catering

Tarana Ngangom, California
Jerina Ngangom, California
Luna, Columbus, Ohio
Singdha Moyee Bora, Atlanta

Tea

Banamali Tea, Assam

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