

# 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 Sngam 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](mailto:likhiteshibi@gmail.com)

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**"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.

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**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).**

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

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

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**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.

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**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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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**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.