WORLD PEACE MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018
2-4 Feb, Mohar Kunj, Kolkata
Free Entry    All are welcome
Sur Jahan, earlier known as Sufi Sutra, is a world peace music festival celebrating cultural plurality and, in 7 years, the festival has evolved as the Headliner Music Festival in the city of Kolkata. The festival creates a platform for cultural exchange and dialogue, to create awareness and understanding of culture and its diversity. The festival is conceptualized, designed, curated and presented by banglanatak dot com, a 17-year-old Kolkata-based UN recognized social enterprise specializing in Culture & Development. Since its inception in 2011, the festival has had participation from 26 countries and 12 Indian states. The festival also provides a platform for rural traditional handicraft and folk performing artists for showcasing their art forms and has created opportunities of collaboration, enriching the connect and leading to a wider, more vibrant assimilation of their art. It is a non-commercial, non-ticketed festival with a motto of 'Music for All and Music for Peace'.

The 8th edition of the festival will be held at Mohar Kunj, Kolkata, on Feb 2-4, 2018.

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### Evening Concert
(Venue: Mohar Kunj - Ground 1)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Inauguration</td>
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<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Atse Tewodros (Italy/ Ethiopia)</td>
<td>Muzykanci (Poland)</td>
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<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Bangla Qawwali (India)</td>
<td>Tuuletar (Finland)</td>
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<td>Feb 3</td>
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<td>Cheikh Lo (Senegal)</td>
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<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Folks of Bengal (India)</td>
<td>Muzsikas (Hungary)</td>
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<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Muzykanci (Poland)</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>Muzykanci (Poland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
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<td>Folks of Bengal (India)</td>
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<td>Feb 4</td>
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<td>Muzsikas (Hungary)</td>
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### Workshop
(Venue: Mohar Kunj - Ground 2)

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<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>Muzykanci (Poland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>Folks of Bengal (India)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Muzsikas (Hungary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>Tuuletar (Finland)</td>
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### Showcasing Rural Craft & Cultural Hubs
(Venue: Mohar Kunj - Ground 2)

- **Folk Performances:** Feb 3-4, 4 pm - 7 pm
- **Handicraft Stalls:** Feb 2-4, 11 am - 9 pm
Atse Tewodros Project  Italy/ Ethiopia

Members
Gabriella Ghermandi
Anteneh Teklemariam Barago
Endres Hassen Ahmed
Misale Legesse Muleta
Tommaso Ruggero
Camilla Missio
Fabrizio Giuseppe Puglisi

Born in Ethiopia and brought up in Italy, Gabriella Ghermandi grew up in a world full of different sounds like Ethiopian, Italian, Congolese and Indian. Initially receiving accolades as a writer, Ghermandi went on to acquire a reputation as a performer of Ethiopian and Italian fusion folk music. In 2010, as an attempt to bring together Ethiopian and Italian musicians to foster mutual dialogue and artistic creation, she formed the Atse Tewodros Project. It is named after Emperor Tewodros II, the most beloved emperor of Ethiopia who was not of royal descent and rose to power and modernized Ethiopia while respecting its traditions. Atse Tewodros was the winner of Battle of Bands 2015 and International Expo Competition “Energy, Art & Sustainability for Africa” (2015). Their album “Ethiopia Celebrating Emperor Tewodros II” was also in the ballot for the 59th Grammy Awards in two categories.

Evening Concert: Feb 2 at 7 pm
Day Time Workshop: Feb 4 at 12 noon
Cheikh Lo  Senegal

Members

Cheikh Lo  
Cisse Alassane  
Gueye Pape Magaye  
Mbaye Khadimou Rassoul  
Niang Moutar  
Zinsou Wilfrid Ambroise

Donning Ray Ban on a craggy face, topped by heavy dreadlocks on a slender frame, Cheikh Lo creates an impression on his audience even before he begins to perform. Hailing from the Francophone country of Burkina Faso in West Africa, his music is a mix of mbalax, reggae and soukous influences. Cheikh Lo’s unique, cosmopolitan, graceful, slender voice is high-pitched, irregularly pulsating, and a treat to the ears of all folk music lovers. Working with the iconic Afro beat drummer Tony Allen and growing up in his hometown influenced him to have an Afro beat baseline to his music. He took his first orchestral steps in his career with Volta Jazz, a Bobo variety band that played Cuban and Congolese pop songs and Burkinabé music. With forty years of music experience up his sleeve, Lo spent quite some time in Paris as a session musician playing the guitar and drums. A follower of Baye Fall, this Senegalese musician is like a peace warrior on a mission. He was awarded with the WOMEX Lifetime Award in 2015.

Evening Concert: Feb 3 at 8 pm  
Day Time Workshop: Feb 4 at 1 pm
Muzsikas Hungary

Members
Daniel Hamar
Mihaly Sipos
Peter Eri
Laszlo Porteleki
Istvan Berecz
Hanga Kacso

Bringing Hungary’s folk music to global limelight, Muzsikas is a folk music ensemble performing for over four decades now. The four member band is known for its unique musical skills, versatility and collaborations with various other artists of different genres like world music, classical, klezmer, jazz, etc. Muzsikas often combine traditional Hungarian folk music with the classical compositions of Bartok, Kodaly, Kurtag and many others. They have also performed in several renowned concert halls around the world like Royal Festival Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Barbican Centre and Carnegie Hall, to name a few. Their music pieces have also featured in movies like The English Patient, Music Box and Only Yesterday. The band has also provided the music for a contemporary dance piece titled "Dancing Room" which was performed in several theaters in England and filmed by BBC. Muzsikas won the prestigious WOMEX Award for World Music in 2008 as well as the Hungarian State award for artists, The Kossuth Prize. The ensemble will be accompanied by two guests: Hanga Kacso, singer and István Berecz, dancer.

Evening Concert: Feb 4 at 7 pm
Day Time Workshop: Feb 3 at 1 pm
Muzykanci  Poland

Members

Joanna Słowińska
Jan Słowiński
Jacek Halas
Alicja Choromańska-Hałas
Stanisław Słowiński

One of the most original folk bands in the Polish music world, Muzykanci is famous for its incredibly talented musicians and their ways of uniting their individual styles. From performing at village weddings to the world's biggest festivals, Muzykanci has been consistently experimenting with music and making thrilling versions of Polish folk songs from various Polish, Lemko, Hungarian, Balkan, Gypsy and Jewish tunes. The band's inspiration comes mostly from the dark folk tales of their homeland. Set to a musical palette of accordions, their music reaches out to everyone transcending all barriers of language. They have performed at numerous concerts in Germany, Scotland, Denmark, and the Czech Republic. They have been winners of Grand Prix of Polish Radio and Euro Folk Festival and selected as Folk Fonogram of the year.

Evening Concert: Feb 2 at 8 pm
Day Time Workshop: Feb 3 at 11 am
Tuuletar Finland

Members
Sini Koskelainen
Piia Säilynoja
Johanna Kyykoski
Venla Ilona Blom

The world “Tuuletar” comes from Finnish mythology and means Goddess of the Wind. This vocal performance group is formed by four diverse women from Finland. Since 2012, these vibrant musicians have been singing, composing and performing together, creating their own identity using music. From American Hip Hop to South Asian folk, Tuuletar takes inspiration from all kinds of music and pioneer the genre of Vocal Folk Hop. In July 2015, Tuuletar dazzled in their breakthrough performance at Austria’s Vokal Total competition and won the topmost honor. Their success in Austria led them to their headlining performances at Vienna’s Voice Mania in 2015 and the Budapest A cappella Festival in 2016. Tuuletar released their debut album “Tules Maas Vedes Taivaal” in June 2016. The album rose right up to the Top 10 in European World Music Charts as well as Transglobal World Music Charts. They also gave an exclusive radio concert in WOMEX 2016.

Evening Concert: Feb 3 at 7 pm
Day Time Workshop: Feb 4 at 11 am
Folks of Bengal India

Members
Debalina Bhowmick
Nazrul Islam
Pranesh Som
Arpita Chakraborty
Abinash Roy
Arpan Thakur Chakraborty
Sajib Sarkar
Dipankar Roy Dakua

Folks of Bengal is an initiative of banglanatak dot com for promoting the folk traditions of Bengal through creating opportunities for folk musicians, which includes supporting them with various capacity building workshops, creating opportunities of collaboration, linking the artists to various festivals & venues and facilitating the same (if need be), releasing music albums & running an open-to-all weekend cultural space, Akhra@Baitanik, for regular folk performances. The participating artists work with folk music round the year and have their own bands and identity. They also collaborate with the rural traditional artists for meaningful exchanges in this pursuit. The ensemble takes the audience on a journey through the traditional music pathway of Bengal, celebrating the diversity and richness of Bengal’s culture.

Evening Concert: Feb 4 at 6 pm
Daytime Workshop: Feb 3 at 12 noon
Bangla Qawwali & Kolkata Gaan

India

Members
Arman Fakir
Akkas Fakir
Babu Fakir
Arijit Chakraborty
Kamanurjaman Karikar
Gopen Debnath
Sandip Ganguli

This ensemble takes you through a journey of traditional Baul, Fakiri and Bangla Qawwali songs along with songs of old Kolkata. Gorbhanga Fakirs are bearers of the Fakiri Qawwali traditions and Arijit will present Puratoni style of Kolkata's songs.

The essence of Baul philosophy is self-searching and rejection of divisions like caste, creed & religion. There are about 2,500 Bauls in Bengal across Bardhaman, Birbhum, Nadia, Bankura and Murshidabad. Sufi practitioners seek to be one with the divine through Qawwali songs. The first Sufi saint to come to Bengal was Jalaluddin Tabria during the reign of King Lakshman Sen (1178–1206). Later, more Sufi saints made Bengal their home, including music maestros like Mainuddin Chisti, Qutubuddin Bakhtiar Kati, Fariduddin Gajain-i-Sakar, Nizamuddin Auliya, Sarafuddin Ali Shah Kalandar and Baduuddin Shah Madar. Gorbhanga Fakirs, along with Fakirs of Murshidabad, have been instrumental in reviving Bangla Qawwali and sing the same along with Baul Fakiri songs.

Evening Concert: Feb 3 at 6 pm
Folks of Bengal in Collaborative Workshops @ Sur Jahan

Ujaan
Workshop: Feb 4, 12 noon
Collaborating partner: Atse Tewodros Project (Italy/ Ethiopia)

Mahajani
Workshop: Feb 3, 1 pm
Collaborating partner: Muzsikas (Hungary)

Chatak
Workshop: Feb 4, 1 pm
Collaborating partner: Cheikh Lo (Senegal)

Rangapathar
Workshop: Feb 3, 11 am
Collaborating partner: Muzykanci (Poland)

Achin Pakhi
Workshop: Feb 4, 11 am
Collaborating partner: Tuuletar (Finland)
We appreciate media support