MusiCal
music for peace, music for all

Folk music of Bengal
banglanatak dot com is a social enterprise with 75 member team, working with a vision of synergizing cultural and economic development. We started our journey in Kolkata in 2000, but now have branches in Delhi and Goa.

Our flagship initiative 'Art for Life' creates opportunities for socio-economic empowerment of communities by leveraging their traditional skills in art and craft. The initiative has been effective in alleviating poverty of thousands of families. Their villages have emerged as cultural destinations. We are working with 20000 rural traditional artists including 5000 folk musicians. Recognition of their art and culture by local people as well as outsiders has fostered inclusiveness and the marginalized communities are participating in the development process resulting in improvement of socio-economic parameters. Our approach is based on the simple principle of capacity building, linking the grass-root artists and crafts persons directly to the market and facilitating exchange and collaboration for supporting innovation and confidence building. Our learning is investment on Culture on one hand creates potential of achieving economic gains, social inclusion and on the other hand engages the people to protect, value and grow with their culture. View more on AFL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grVX_3JNbjQ.

**C4D (Communication for Development)**

We specialize in designing and implementing development communications using theatre. We have reached out to over 100,000 villages across rural India and have worked on various issues including Health, Prevention of Human Trafficking, Sanitation, Environmental issues, Strengthening Livelihood and Grass-root Entrepreneurship. We have worked with Central and State Governments and organizations like UNICEF, BBC Media Action, ABT Associates, Futures Group, IPAS etc. We provide end to end solution including script development, community theatre development, capacity building of stakeholders in theatre based methods, campaign planning, designing supporting of communication tools, testing & demonstration, conducting campaign, feedback collection, documentation, evaluation, impact analysis and advisory to client on possible areas of future intervention. We also do theatre based training for grass root service providers and do social research using theatre based methods.

We are accredited with ICH 2003 Convention of UNESCO (since 2011), with Special Advisory Status with UN ECOSOC (since 2013), global partner to UNWTO (since 2015) and National partner to UNESCO (since 2008).

With this background, we launched MusiCal, to link the urban youth and rural musicians to the world and to support youth with skills and resources in developing career and business opportunities in music industry. Our focus is folk music, including traditional folk and contemporary urban acoustic music. We believe that Music Entrepreneurship holds the promise of fostering creative economy, engaging youth in development and achieving global peace by connecting communities. We feel with a little support in this sector, a huge talent pool may get the desired oxygen, will safeguard a treasury of resources, will open up a new window to the world and will show a path for the aspiration of young India.
At MusiCal, we have released 45 music albums so far, covering different genres of Bengali folk music, namely Baul Fakiri, Bhatiyali, Bhawaiya, Bangla Qawwali, Jhumur, Patachitra songs sung by rural traditional artists. In 2012, we released an album on Hindi Lokgeet with the traditional artists of Bihar. 2013 onwards, we started working with urban youth. In 2014-16, we have released a music album series ‘Folks of Bengal’. We also did a few collaborative music albums in last two years:

- Between Bengal and Goan musicians, East West Local
  - Trans Bangla, the first album, was the Indian pick of Top World Music Albums of 2014
  - Ananda Lahari, the second album, to be released at WOMEX 2016.

- With Bangladesh musicians- Road to Music &
- Konkani Bengali folk fusion, Ganga Zuari.

We introduced **Sufi Sutra**. World Peace Music Festival, in 2011 at Kolkata, with 6 International and 3 Indian musical acts at each festival. 7th edition of Sufi Sutra, renamed as **Sur Jahan**, to be held in Kolkata on Feb 3-5 and in Goa on Feb 8-10, 2017.

We have a venue at Kolkata, **Akhra@Baitanik**, at courtyard of a heritage building, located at the heart of Kolkata (4 Elgin Road), where we give opportunities to city youth/ rural folk artists for weekend performance and also host cultural exchange workshops. It's an open to all music space, held 150 programmes between Dec 2011 & Mar 2016. 6th season starts on Sep 18, 2016 and continues till Jun 21, 2017.
At banglanatak dot com, we encourage and support cultural exchange. We have brought many International artists of different genres to Kolkata in last seven years and held workshops, presented collaborative work and facilitated exchanges with rural and urban musicians including performance at village festivals.
Surjahan
WORLD PEACE MUSIC FESTIVAL
Kolkata-Feb 3-5   Goa-Feb 8-10

International Teams participated so far
Afghanistan
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Denmark
Egypt
Hungary
Iran
Morocco
Portugal
Russia
Scotland
Spain
Syria
Sweden
Tajikistan
Tunisia
UK
USA

National Teams
Andhra Pradesh
Bihar
Delhi
Gujarat
Kashmir
Punjab
Rajasthan
Uttar Pradesh
West Bengal
**Baul Fakiri**
It is the music of self discovery practiced by the Bauls & Fakirs of Bengal, where music is the conduit for attaining oneness with the supreme power.

**Bangla Qawwali**
The devotional songs of the Sufis of the Middle East upon arrival in Bengal evolved as a unique music tradition of this region.

**Jhumur Song & Dance**
Jhumur is the lifestyle music and dance of Purulia and Bankura. The songs convey the everyday life and triumphs of the people in these tribal districts.

**Chau**
‘Chau’ is an acrobatic martial art based masked dance of Purulia, inscribed in UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

**Bhatiyali**
Bhatiyali is the music of mystic rivers hummed by boatmen while rowing downstream.

**Raibenshe**
It is a martial art based dance form of the men from the Bagdi community in Bardhaman, Birbhum & Murshidabad districts of West Bengal characterized by use of stilts.

**Natua**
Natua, often termed as origin of Chau, is a folk dance from Purulia characterized by skilled acrobatics and physical strength of the performers wearing head gears, colourful ribbons as wrist bands and chalk painted bodies.

**Putul Nach**
The art of puppetry of Nadia district is an ancient folk form still practiced by the artists. It has past the test of time and still enthralls the audience of all ages.

**Bhawaiya**
Bhawaiya is the lifestyle music of the Rajbangshi community primarily of North Bengal reflecting the experiences of regular rural life.
At banglanatak dot com we work with over 5000 urban & rural folk musicians out of which about 150 of them travelled across globe in last seven years. We explore opportunity for the folk artists/groups to perform at various festivals and also provide part support, if needed.

**East West Local**, world folk music band comprises of urban and rural musicians of Bengal and Goa. The band has performed at festivals across India and also in Malaysia. The seven member team on stage includes Debalina Bhowmick (Vocal), Sumanta Das Baul (Vocal and Dotara), Mohan Tati (Flute), Sonatan Das (Dhol and Khol), Elvis Lobo (Acoustic Guitar), Carlos Gonsalves (Percussion), Steven Francis (Bass Guitar). The band can also perform with a strength of four.

**Armaan Brothers**: Fakirs of Gorbhanga, Nadia led by Arman, Babu and Akkas are flag bearers of Fakiri & Bangla Qawwali songs. They have travelled to festivals across India and also performed in Europe and Africa. The team on stage is: Babu Fakir (Vocal, Dotara and Harmonium), Arman Fakir (Vocal and Dotara), Akkas Fakir (Vocal), Kamarujjaman Karigar (Vocal and Dotara) & Gopen Debnath (Dhol).

**Baul Fakirs of Bengal** convey this simple message of love and humanity through their songs. There are 20 top quality Baul teams, many of them have performed across the globe including at Damascus Festival, Namaste India Festival in Japan, Gannat Festival in France.

**Surma Dohar Trio**, a Kolkata based Bengali folk music trio, specializing in Bhatiyali songs, consists of Joysankar Choudhury (Vocal), Bablu Das (Vocal & Dubki) and Amit Guha (Vocal, Dotara & Banjo).

**Indie Folk Ensemble**, is a folk musical consisting of music & dance. Bengali, Rajasthani, Gujarati folk music is presented along with Chau dance. It is a 8 member team.
banglanatak dot com invites you to explore Community led Heritage Tourism at Art & Craft Villages in West Bengal, India

Dokra
Dariyapur, Bardhaman
Sep 23-25, 2016

Dokra
Bikna, Bankura
Sep 30-Oct 2, 2016

Kantha
Nanoor, Birbhum
Oct 14-16, 2016

Wooden Mask
Kushmandi,
Dakshin Dinajpur
Oct 21-23, 2016

Terracotta
Panchmura, Bankura
Nov 4-6, 2016

POT Maya
Pingla, Paschim Medinipur
Nov 11-13, 2016

Fakiri Utsav
Gorbangha, Nadia
Nov 18-20, 2016

Tepantar
Theatre Village
Sakahania, Bardhaman
Nov 25-27, 2016

Chau Mask
Charida, Purulia
Dec 16-18, 2016

Chau Jhumur Utsav
Barnia, Purulia
Dec 22-28, 2016

Wooden Doll
Natungram, Bardhaman
Jan 20-22, 2017

Sitalpati
Ghughumari, Cooch Behar
Jan 20-22, 2017

Basant Utsav
Festival of Colours
Nimdih & Tepantar
Mar 12-14, 2017

You can visit these villages at any time of the year.

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