

"Father Sky -- Mother Earth": The Musicians



From left to right: Jhumpa, Tandra, Sucharita, Arundhati, Enakshi, Zafar, Arun, Arati, Ruma and Jayeeta



Arindam Chakraborty

Brief descriptions on the Musicians

Arundhati Mallik (Director) : Arundhati Mallik grew up in a musical household and started singing at an early age. Mrs. Mallik received classical voice training for many years. She stood second nationally in the All India Radio competition, and afterwards became a regular performer for All India Radio (stationed in Patna). She participated in the famed Youth Festival in New Delhi, and frequently performed in festivals and competitions in her home state of Bihar. At present, Mrs. Mallik divides her time between Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Arindam Chakraborty (Tabla) : Dr. Arindam Chakraborty (a graduate of IIT, Kharagpur) is the disciple of the tabla-maestro Bikram Ghosh. His recent performance can be heard in the CD "MAHALAYA" released by Ananda Mandir in 2005. He has accompanied several vocalists and instrumentalists in the tri-state area.

Jhumpa Mallik (Violin) : Jhumpa Mallik started learning the violin when she was in school. She played in the New Jersey Youth Symphony for five years, and has also participated in several community functions, both as a violinist and singer. Jhumpa is presently a graduate student. She continues to learn music from her mother. Jhumpa would like to pay her respects to one of her teachers, the late Mrs. Millie Bose, a very gifted violinist.

Arun Bhowmik : Arun Bhowmik grew up in a family of musicians. He was surrounded by music since childhood, but did not receive any formal training in music per se. He is, however, a self-taught musician of great distinction, with a mellifluous voice as a vocalist. Aside from singing, he has mastery of tabla, which he teaches to young adults, and also violin.

Sucharita Das : Sucharita started learning music when she was eight years old. That affiliation grew to become her passion which continues through her professional training of masters of engineering. During her high school and college years she was privileged to get training from renowned vocalists Pandit Narayan Rao Joshi and Pandit A.T. Kanan. Currently she is under the training of Smt. Arundhati Mallik, a well known vocalist in New Jersey.

Zafar Billah : Zafar Billah was exposed to music at home since childhood. His eldest brother was a major figure in the Theater Movement of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Another brother, now in Houston, is also a musician. Zafar Billah received his music training from Chhayanaut, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Founded in 1961, Chhayanaut has become one of the finest institutions of vocal music, dance and instrumental music in Bangladesh due to the dedication of a few legendary teachers of that time. Zafar was a disciple of Smt Sanjida Khatun and had a long association (1973-78) with Chhayanaut. The famous Najrulgeeti singer, Feroza Bagum, is his cousin.

Jayeeta Ghosh : Jayeeta has a Master of Music degree from Viswa Bharati University in Santiniketan, India. At Santiniketan, her teachers included Santidev Ghosh, Kanika Bandyopadhyaya, Nilima Sen and Sri Sudhish Bandyopadhyaya. Jayeeta has given numerous solo performances including at Banga Sammelans in New York, Chicago, Atlantic City, Toronto and Kolkata. Since 1981 she has been teaching Rabindra Sangeet. Her school, Prerona, meets at the Bharat Sevashram Sangh in Kendall Park, New Jersey.

Four accomplished vocalists of New Jersey in chorus : Arati Bhattacharya, Enakshi Biswas,
Tandra Bhowmick, Ruma Pal