

3.6

Dear Friends,

On this auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, we extend our arms to welcome all of you to our WCBA family. We receive you with sincere greetings and warmest feelings.

The Worcester County Bengali Association (WCBA) is a vibrant, close-knit community rooted in tradition, culture, and togetherness. Our journey began during the 90s, when a small group of Bengali families in the Worcester area came together for simple weekend gatherings. What started as a shared desire for connection soon blossomed into an enduring bond, strengthened by the successful organization of our first Saraswati Puja in 1989.

As more families joined, our community steadily grew—transforming from informal meetups into a dedicated cultural association. In 2001, we proudly hosted our first Durga Puja, marking a major milestone in WCBA's evolution. Since then, we've expanded our reach, welcoming more families and organizing a variety of cultural, religious, and charitable events throughout the year.

Today, WCBA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit cultural organization, dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of Bengal while fostering a warm, inclusive environment for all. Our nonprofit status enables us to further our mission through community engagement, charitable initiatives, and cultural programming that brings people together.

From vibrant celebrations like Durga Puja, Saraswati Puja, and our beloved Ananda Mela, cultural performances, and community service - there's something for everyone at WCBA. Whether you're reconnecting with your roots or experiencing Bengali culture for the first time, we welcome you with open arms. Join us in celebrating heritage, building lifelong connections, and creating memories that span generations.

Sincerely;
The Organizers of WCBA





Program



Saturday September 27th

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

12:00 PM - 01:30 PM

01:30 PM - 02:00 PM

02:00 PM - 03:30 PM

04:30 PM - 04:45 PM

04:50 PM - 05:45 PM

05:45 PM - 06:00 PM

06:15 PM - 06:45 PM

06:45 PM - 07:00 PM

07:00 PM - 07:30 PM

07:30 PM - 09:00 PM

09:00 PM - 10:30 PM

Puja

Pushpanjali

Prasad

Lunch

Udbodhoni Shongeet

Chhotoder Bangla Natok - Balti Brittanto

Sandhya Arati

Abhisarika

Dancing Durgas & Dhunuchi Dance

Solo Performance By Ria Dey

Dinner

Boroder Bengali Natok - Solution X

Sunday September 28th

01:00 PM - 02:30 PM

02:30 PM - 03:00 PM

03:00 PM - 04:00 PM

05:00 PM - 06:00 PM

06:00 PM - 07:30 PM

Puja

Anjali & Prasad

Lunch

Baran & Sindoor Khela

Feature Artist - Kinjal Chatterjee







We Love You Raktim / Raktim Da

Embarrassing encounter with my mother-in-law!

This is my story

Written by Neeta Nath

So we got married. My husband came back to America. It was decided that my visa will be processed from Bombay. So, I stayed back in Bombay for close to three months. Anyway, one evening there were guests over for dinner at my in-law's house. After dinner my mother-in law wanted to serve mangoes. She asked me to go to the kitchen and cut some mangoes.

Walking into the kitchen looking at that rustic primitive cutting device, called 'bonti' my heart sank. I was familiar with 'bonti' but never used one. I sat on the ground secured myself to use the bonti so it does not move, got ready to cut when all of a sudden, my mother-in-law showed up made an exclamation..... what are you doing...what are you doing ... Tumi ki korcho, tumi ki korcho!!!

I looked up bewildered... perplexed.. in her excitement she said ... I asked you to cut mangoes, you are cutting 'PAPAYA'.

I was embarrassed to the core. To save my back I said in Delhi (where I came from) mangoes come in large sizes.

Mamoni soon got over it. She ever had fun sharing this with her associates. She said we like her innocence.

While she got over it I did not. I realized...now that I am married I have a lot to learn. be it the use of that rustic primitive chopping device, called 'bonti' or not mistaking papaya for a mango......

Slowly it dawned on me that thekitchen department 'IS' a WHOLE NEW WORLD.....

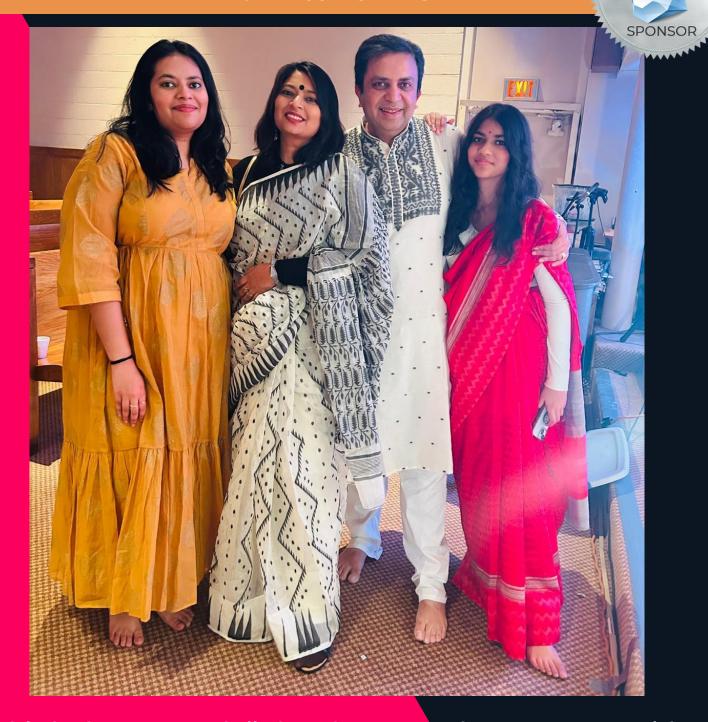
DIAMOND



Heartiest congratulations to WCBA for celebrating 25 years of Durga Puja! Shubho Bijoya to WCBA Family & Friends

Satya, Sheema, Abiskar and Alingon

DIAMOND



Heartfelt thanks to WCBA and all of you for giving us this opportunity to celebrate Durga Puja with our extended family of Worcester Bengali Community. May Maa Durga bless all of you with joy, peace, and prosperity. Happy Durga Puja.

Rupsa, Rito, Rhine, & Kuhu

DIAMOND



As a proud donor and member, we extend our heartfelt greetings to the Worcester County Bengali Association (WCBA) on this auspicious occasion of Durga Puja!

May Maa Durga bless the community with joy, harmony, and prosperity, and may this celebration continue to unite us in culture and devotion year after year!

Wishing everyone a blessed Puja and a joyful Bijoya!

Debarchana, Amlan & Aranno ENTEGRIS INC.

129 Concord Rd, Billerica, MA







Shubho Sharodiya!!

May Maa Durga bless you all with joy and harmony!

Anupama, Soumen, Shivangi and Aayushi



From our family to yours, may Maa Durga bless your home with peace, prosperity, and endless happiness this Durga Puja!

Bishakha, Surojit, Shreya & Siyona





Sending loving wishes and warm regards to our beloved WCBA Family on this special occasion of our milestone 25th year celebration! Rita, Pradip, Ipshita & Steven

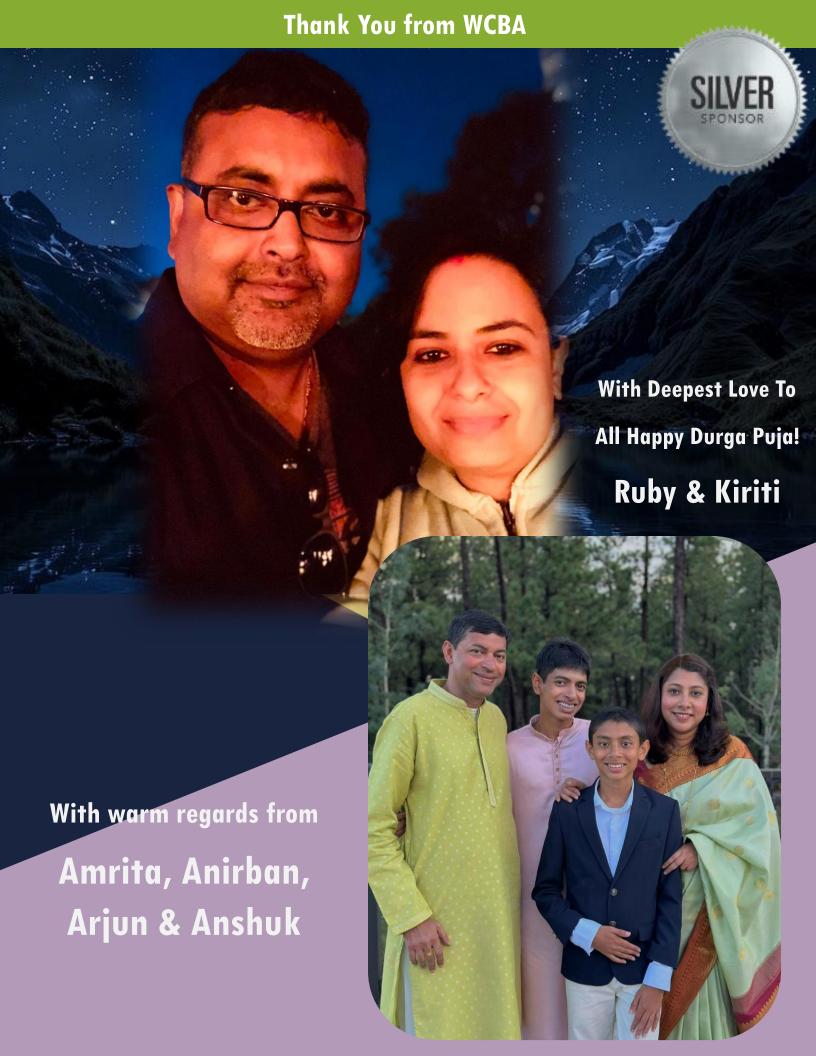


Wishing you and your loved ones joy, prosperity, and good health this festive season Subho Durga Pujo! Sanchari, Rahul, Rishita and Saniya



Sucharita, Debu and Adipto

Wishing you a joyful and blessed Durga Puja!
With love
Luna, Surojit,
Neelasha & Aakash



WCBA Khichudi Bhog Recipe

Over the last few years, there have been many inquiries (and a few persistent pleas) about the elusive recipe of our much-loved WCBA Khichuri Bhog. This ultimate comfort food has become one of the highlights of our Durga Pujo celebrations. So, on the occasion of the 25th WCBA Durga Pujo, it seems only appropriate to finally reveal the closely guarded secrets that make it so special. But fair warning: this recipe requires more than what's written on paper. The WCBA Khichuri Bhog is a creation where community, tradition, and love are the most essential components.

I vividly remember the crisp morning, several years ago, when I first heard the process from our beloved Raktim da and Avirup da. More than cooking techniques, I learnt the essence of what makes this dish special—that the secret ingredient was about the joy of bringing people together around food made with care. Taking on this responsibility, I realized I was inheriting not just a recipe, but a legacy.

The True Recipe:

Ingredient 1: Prastuti and Teamwork

The process begins the day before, with Anupama purchasing every necessary ingredients and ensuring delivery to the kitchen. This thoughtful preparation mirrors how our organization functions - with members stepping up to handle the details that make everything possible.

Ingredient 2: Shokaler Drive

At 7:30am sharp, the carpool with Samik da and Debasis sets the tone—our casual banter and laughter warming us up for the busy hours ahead. These moments of connection are as vital as any spice. The kitchen opens at 8:30am.

Ingredient 3: Coffee aar Adda

Soon Robin da, Amit da, and Amlan arrive with coffee, joining the growing kitchen brigade. As we organize ingredients in synchronized rhythm, each person brings their own flavor—quite literally in Sheema di's case, whose freshly made garam masala and jeera guro elevate the khichuri from good to extraordinary. These aren't ingredients you can buy; they're crafted with care and shared as gifts of love.

Ingredient 4: Prothom Pot

By 9am, the first pot is underway - the one destined for bhog, made with extra care and less spice for children. This pot carries the weight of tradition, connecting us to generations of Bengali families making similar preparations all around the world.

Ingredient 5: Jomeche Community

Three more pots follow in sequence. With Abhijit da, Jayanta and Sujay joining in, the kitchen becomes a hub of activity, stories, and shared joy. Conversations flow as freely as the steam from our cooking, and I realize we're preparing not just a meal, but a celebration of who we are together.

As I stir the final pot of khichuri, made extra spicy with the brave kitchen team in mind, I recognize this dish is incomplete without its perfect accompaniments – crispy hot beguni, crunchy papad, comforting labra, tangy chutney, and sweet mishti doi – just as our celebration needs every member, tradition and shared moments to create the complete experience.

The secret to our khichuri isn't written in any cookbook. It lives in the early morning adda, the shared laughter, the willing hands, and the fellowship that makes every Durga Pujo feel like home, no matter how far we are from our desh. So, while the recipe is now public, there's only one place to truly experience this recipe in all its glory. Come join us at our Durga Pujo celebration—because that's where you'll find all the necessary ingredients gathered in perfect harmony for the authentic WCBA Khichuri Bhog experience.



Durga Puja – My Way

Akash Bhattacharjee

To be honest, at first, I didn't really care much about festivals like Durga Puja. I mean, I knew it was important to my parents, but to me, it just felt like something grown-ups did. Wear Indian clothes, sit through long prayers, eat some food. That was it. But as I got older, I started to see it differently.

Lately, whenever I am going to Durga Puja at WCBA where we have been going every year, I feel like it is not forced. I actually want to go. I am seeing how much effort everyone is putting in. People are decorating the space, making food organizing dances. And ,I realized that it didn't feel like just a "cultural thing." It felt peaceful. I understood

It reminded me of my grandparents in India, how my grandmother used to tell me stories about Ma Durga. It made me feel connected. Even though I live in a different country now, this part of me hasn't gone away.

But I also think this has to come naturally. You can't force someone to feel it. I've seen kids being pushed to perform on stage, or sit through long pujas when they clearly don't want to. That's not the point. Festivals like Durga Puja should be about joy, peace, and meaning, not pressure.

For me, Durga Puja has become a moment to pause, to remember where I come from, and to just be part of something that brings people together. I may not understand every prayer or follow every ritual, but I feel something—and that's enough. I enjoy being with my friends, hanging out, doing fun stuff.

Because in the end, real connection to your culture isn't something you're told to have. You can't force connection . It's something you grow into. when you're ready, and when your heart is open, it will find you .

And when it happens, it stays with you, no matter where in the world you are.

Artist: Saniya Mitra



Artist: Soumili Dey





Artist: Suhrit Ghosh

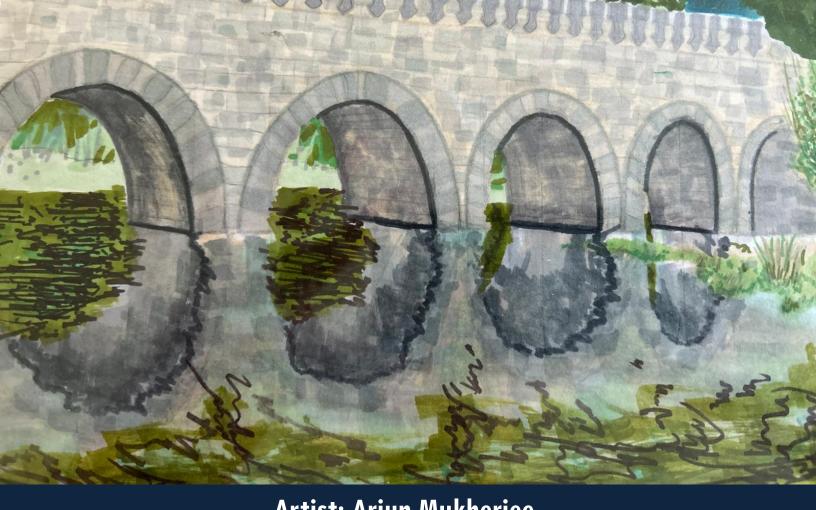


The very ocean of tears has its other shore, else none would have ever wept. - Rabindranath Tagore

কমলিকা ভট্টাচার্য

তুমি চলে গেছো — তবু কোথাও একটুও কমেনি তোমার উপস্থিতি। প্রতিদিনের ছোট ছোট সিদ্ধান্তে, অন্তরালে বাজে তোমার কণ্ঠস্বর। ঘরের কোনে, পুরোনো বইয়ের পাতায়, অপরিচিত কারো হাসিতে হঠাৎ তুমি ফিরে আসো। তোমার আদর্শে গড়া এই মন আজও তোমার পথেই হেঁটে চলে। জীবন থেমে থাকে না — নতুন ভোর আসে, কাজের ব্যস্ততা... তবু সন্ধ্যার নিস্তব্ধতায় হঠাৎ থেমে যাই, ভীষণ চেনা এক শূন্যতার মুখোমুখি। তোমার মুখটা, ভুলে যাইনি, ভুলবো না কোনোদিন। সেই হাসিটা, সেই চোখের আশ্বাস — সব মিশে গেছে আমার ভিতর। আমি আজ যে মানুষ, তার ভিতরটায় তোমারই ছাপ — তুমি নেই, অথচ প্রতিটি পদক্ষেপে তুমি পাশে থাকো, নিরব ভালোবাসায়। তোমাকে খুব ভালোবাসি, এই ভালবাসা, এই অভাব — সারা জীবন বয়ে নিয়ে চলবো, তোমার নামের আলোয় পথ খুঁজে নেবো।

আমি তোমাকে ভালোবাসি, চিরকাল, চিরদিন, চিরন্তন। তোমার মুখটা আর কখনও ছুঁতে না পারলেও, তুমি থাকো আমার সকল ভালবাসায়, সকল যন্ত্রণায়



Artist: Arjun Mukherjee



Autum Prayer

Red, yellow, orange, brown,
All the leaves are falling down,
Colors scatter across the town—
A golden carpet on the ground.



We shall all say thanks today,
To the Supreme Goddess we pray,
For making this season so modest,
O Goddess Durga, mother of the
universe,

Thank You for making this scene diverse.

Autumn is a time for change, Beautiful leaves for exchange, Children drinking apple cider, Maa Durga, our holy rider.

By, Aayushi Das Gupta



Artist: Ritika Ray

উলটপুরাণ রচনা- অর্ক ভট্টাচার্য্য

ডাইনে গিয়ে পরবে যেথায় দুধসায়রের ঘাট সেখান থেকে বাঁয়ে ঘুরেই গোয়ালপাড়ার হাট সেথায় নাকি হচ্ছে এখন বিক্রি মানুষ কত করছে কারা বিক্রি তাদের? ছাগল-কুকুর যত!

কোনটা নেতা, কেউ পুরোহিত, কোনটা বোবা কালা বোরখা থেকে ঘোমটা টেনে মানুষ সাজার মেলা। কোনটা পাগল, কোনটা উদাস, কোনটা হিংস্র বড় কোনটা আবার শান্তঠাণ্ডা, ভয়েতে জড়সড়।

হাটের মাঝে ভিড় করেছে হাজার পশু পাখি বলছে তারা, "ঠিক দামে দাও, খাঁচায় ভরে রাখি। টিয়ার মত ডাক ত দেখি! কর ত ঘেউঘেউ! হাম্বা হাম্বা, হুক্কাহুয়া, কা-কা, মিউমিউ!"

বলতে থাকে, "ওইটা লাজুক, বড্ড আঁতেল এটা, ভালমানুষ কোথায় পাব, বলতে পারো সেটা??" খুঁজছে তারা দোকান ঘুরে মানুষ মনের মত ভাওছে সমাজ পুড়ছে জ্বলে দীর্ঘদিনের ক্ষত।

রাত পোহালো এবার দোকান বন্ধ হবে ধীরে সবাই আবার মানুষ কিনতে কালকে আসবে ফিরে। ফিরবে নিয়ে প্রশ্ন জবাব অনেক হাঁকাহাঁকি মানুষেরা কাল ফুরিয়ে যাবে, কয়েকটি আর বাকি!

* থিতু হতে চেয়ে *		
~কান্তি	কালোয় হলুদে আঁকা	ওরাও থিতু হতে চায়।
=== ===	প্রজাপতি রোজ এসে	
মানুষ থিতু হতে চায়,	চুমু খেয়ে যায়, বলে যায়,	এমন তো নয়,
তবু সরে সরে যায়!	সারা রাত দেখিনি তোমায়।	থিতু হতে চেয়ে, মানুষই কেবল,
-4-2-2 NIN 11-2	চেনা শালিকের সাথে	সরে সরে যায়!
বদলে যায় ঘর,	আসে অচেনা ছাতারে,	
বদলে যায় উঠোন, জানলার বাইরে	ওরা সাত ভাই,	©kanti, 7.7.25
খণ্ডিত আকাশ,	দল বেঁধে আসে,	
তাতে দিনরাতের	খুঁটে খুঁটে খায়,	
একই খেলা, তা-ও	লাফিয়ে লাফিয়ে	
পাল্টে পাল্টে যায়!	ওদের চলন অনেকটাই চড়ুইয়ের মতো।	
কার্নিশের কাক ও	গৃহস্থের কোল ঘেঁষা	
পায়রারা যেখানে	চ ড়ুই রা কো থায়?	
শুনিয়ে যেত সংলাপ,		
এ দিনের সমাচার,	ঘর বদলে গেলে	
তারাও দিনে দিনে,	নতুন পাখিরা এসে	
বদলে ফেলে নিজেদের,	গান শুনিয়ে যায়,	
চেনা জানলায় চেনা মুখ	তবু কান পেতে	
দেখতে না পেয়ে	মানুষ খুঁজে ফেরে,	
তারা কি ফিরে যায়!	চেনা চড়ুইয়ের কিচিরমিচির, মানুষের মতো ওরাও	
বাসা বদলে গেলে,	ৰড় বেশি থিতু হতে চায় ৷	
উঠোনে বিশাল ছাতিমে	ওদেরও ঘর বদলে যায়	
কাঠবেড়ালিরা ছোটে	পায় কি নতুন ঠিকানা?	
কেঁপে কেঁপে ও থমকে,	নাকি সরে যেতে যেতে,	
হাত জ্বোড় করে,	পালছেঁড়া মানুষের মতো	
আহরণ মুখে তোলে,	হারিয়েই যায় সময়ের হাওয়ায়?	
দাওয়ায় বসে মনে হয়,		
বুঝি বা স্বাগত জানায়,	তার পরে এক দিন,	
	থিতু হতে চাওয়া মানুষ	

দেখে নতুন উঠোনে,

পায়চারি করে কিছু ঘুঘু|

* || হয়তো আমারই ভুল ||*

~ কান্তি

=== === === যে ভুল করিনি আমি, তা-ও স্বীকার করেছি কত বার। নীরবে মুছেছি ভুলের জঞ্জাল, সে-ই কি ভুল ছিল আমার?

হয়তো বিস্মরণে কেউ, কিংবা আপন স্বভাবে, আমাকে করেছে দায়ী দুষেছে অন্যের দোষে–

বিসায়ে চেয়ে দেখেছি তাদের আত্মবিশ্বাসী ভুল, আমারই উপর দিয়ে কী ভাবে হয়েছে উসুল!

পদে-মানে বড় যারা, কিংবা পরম মেহের জন, রে**খে** গেছে যে যার ভুল নীরব থেকেছি তখন।

আমারই উপর দিয়ে হয়েছে সে সব উসুল, ভেবেছি, তুমি তো দেখছ সব, সে কি আমারই বড় ভুল!

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Wishes From e Jewelers





With Best Wishes From RSM, Shrewsbury

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Worcester County Bengali Association



Directed by AMIT GHOSH

Cast

PRADIP GHOSH

RITA GHOSH

SHAMIK SENGUPTA

RUPSA GANGOPAHDYAY

ARKO BHATTACHARYA

SUBHRAJIT BASU

SHUBHRANGSHU GANGOPADHYAY

BISHAKHA BANERJEE ROY

8

SAHANA GANGOPADHYAY

ALL SAINTS CHURCH 10 Irving St, 2nd Floor, Worcester, MA 01609 SEPTEMBER 27th, 2025

Worcester County Bengali Association नित्विमिञ



अ डिन ए



ন্তা নদিশেনা - শ্যো রায় চৌধুরী ও দেবেচনা চব্দবেতী আবহ - ঋতন্তে চ্যাটাজ শিল্প নির্দেশনা - জয়ীতা রায় ও মুজয় গানুনি আনো - মৌমেন দাম

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Aayushi Das Gupta

Yashika Pal

Seona Guha

Sarannya Gupta

Saniya Mitra

Sahana Gangopadhyay

Dhunuchi Dance

Anirban Mukherjee

Amlan Chakraborty

Debnath Ghosh

Sujay Ganguly

Shubhro Seal

Soumen Das

Shubham Dutta

Soumitro Roy

Jayanta Chakrabarti

Rahul Mitra

Manish

Solo Performance By Ria Dey

Udhbodhoni Shongeet

Ria Dey

Arko Bhattacharya

Jayeeta Roy

Debarchana Chakraborty

Amrita Mukherjee

Anirban Mukherjee

Subrajit Basu

Ritika Ray

Debangi Bose

Totan Ganguly

Sujay Ganguly

Sanchari Mitra

Rahul Mitra

Kalyani Dey

Pampa Chakraborty

Jayanta Chakraborty

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