

Durgotsav

October 6th to 8th



BAY AREA PRABASI INC.

Durga Puja 2000

Welcome

Durga Puja is the most important festival of all Bengalis. Every Bengali away from home longs to hear the familiar sound of Dhak, be with their family, and feel the festive spirit of Durga Puja. The open blue sky, the golden sunshine, *Dhunuchi nachh* and the mild fragrance of *Shiuli*, gives a familiar tug at every Bengali heart.

Prabasi has great pleasure in welcoming you to attend and enjoy Durga Puja 2000 festival from October 6th to October 8th at Chabot College, Hayward. Please come with your family and friends and enjoy our rich and fun-filled programs comprising of talented local artists and renowned professionals from Kolkata.

For more information, please visit <http://www.prabasi.org/durgapuja>.



Flood Relief and You

Large parts of West Bengal have been inundated by floods this year. A large part of the population has been rendered homeless and there is a dire need for relief supplies. All this suffering has come at a time when our brothers and sisters in Bengal should be enjoying Durga Puja!

Bay Area Prabasi is organizing a massive fund raiser effort to help the people of West Bengal cope with this calamity. Funds collected through this effort will be sent to reputed non-government organizations like Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha.

Bay Area Prabasi has set a target of collecting \$10,000 for this fund.

Prabasi is making an initial contribution of \$1,000 to kickoff this fund-raiser. Please send your generous contributions to

Bay Area Prabasi Inc.
5270 Rooster Drive
San Jose CA 95136

Please make your check payable to 'Bay Area Prabasi Inc.' and write 'Flood Relief' in the memo field. Alternatively, you can also turn in your contributions at the Prabasi reception booth during Durga Puja.

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Special Attractions:

- Professional Cultural Programs by
 - Promita Mallik (Oct 6)
 - Lopamudra Mitra (Oct 7)
 - Sreeradha Banerjee (Oct 8)
- Local Programs
 - Prakriti (direction Angira Dey)
 - Chirkumari Sangad
 - Sur Chanda
 - Geet Alankar

❧❧❧❧❧❧ Schedule of Events

Friday, October 6	Puja	8:00pm to 9:00pm
	Prakriti: Fusion dances by Children (Dir: Angira Dey)	9:00pm to 9:30pm
	Palligeeti and RabindraSangeet (Promita Mallik)	9:45pm to 11:30pm
Saturday, October 7	Puja and Anjali	10:00am to 1:00pm
	All day Special Children's Event	12:30pm to 5:00pm
	Bhog Distribution	1:30pm to 3:00pm
	Chirakumari Sangad (Drama) (dir: Anuradha Ray)	3:30pm to 5:30pm
	Aarti	6:00pm to 6:30 pm
	Sur-Chhanda – Dance (Dir: Susmita Bhattacharya)	6:45pm to 7:45pm
	Aadhunik, KabyaGeeti and RabindraSangeet (Lopamudra Mitra)	8:15pm to 10:00pm
	Geet Alankar (Kohinoor, Subhen and orchestra)	10:30pm to midnight
Sunday, October 8	Puja Anjali	11:00 am to 12:30 pm
	Aadhunik, RabindraSangeet, (Sreeradha Bannerjee)	3:30 pm to 5:30pm

* The Special children's Event will comprise of a Painting Competition, Games and a Magic & Balloon Show.

Lopamudra Mitra: Carving her own Style

Ms. Lopamudra Mitra is a Super star in the domain of contemporary Bengali music. Lopamudra was one of the prime attractions at the North American Bengali Conference held in the San Francisco Bay Area in July , 1999.

She sings transformed selected poems to songs with unique compositions. She has been rendering her golden voice since the last twelve years, but earned a rare distinction and fame within a short period of time. She started learning music from her father in childhood. When she was eight, her music career started with Rabindra Sangeet in Geeta Bitan. On the other hand, she prepared herself with vocal classical training under Shri Arun Bhaduri and Rita Roy. She enriched herself in different streams of music like classical, Nazrulgeet, Bhajan, light classical under the discipline of Sri Sukumar Mitra. She had further learned Rabindra Sangeet from Sri Subhas Chowdhury.

The uniqueness of Lopamudra which identifies her from most other contemporary performers is her style of rendering the songs. Lopamudra sings with heart and tries to present the poems with its total aesthetic essence, dramatic grandeur, and visual effect before the audience. She believes that a performer becomes successful only when she and her music cannot be separated from each other.

Since 1988, Lopamudra is a regular Grade-A artist in All India radio and Doordarshan Kendra. She earned a scholarship from West Bengal State Music Academy in Rabindra Sangeet to train in the supervision of Sri Subinoy Roy and the late



Lopamudra Mitra at NABC 99 in Santa Clara

Aurobindo Biswas.

With this versatility, Lopamudra went for an experiment in Bengali modern songs with the music director Sri Samir Chatterjee and finally, she found her platform in the songs based on poems of renowned poets. And that was her way just to go for success. With this new approach she performed all over India and won the hearts of music-lovers.

She will be accompanied by Saurav (Joy) Sarkar on Guitar; Premendu Ghosh on Tabla and Gorachand Ram on the Synthesizer. Joy Sarkar is one of the most promising music composers in Bengal today. Many of the famous stars (e.g., Indrani Sen, Srikanto Acharya, Lopmudra Mitra etc.) have been recording their Puja songs with Joy's music compositions.

Sreeradha Banerjee: A tradition in Best Playback Singing

Sreeradha Banerjee was born in a family with deep insight and love for music. Her acumen towards music was inherited from her parents Shri Sundar Narayan Banerjee and Smt Protima Banerjee. Sreeradha started taking lessons in Indian Classical Music from Geetabitan Sangeet Shikshayatan" under the guidance of Late Shukhendu Goswami and some other exponents of the genre of Indian Classical Music.



Sreeradha stood first in the six years degree course "Sangeet Bharati" and received "Girija Shankar Smriti Gold Medal" in 1980. Also having a keen interest in Light Music, Sreeradha took training in Bengali Modern Songs, Geet, Bhajan etc from eminent composers like Late Sudhin Dasgupta, Smt Neeta Sen, Shri Jatilshwar Mukherjee, Shri Sukumar Mitra and in Rabindra Sangeet from Shri Subhas Chowdhury.

She is an approved "A" grade artiste of Doordarshan Kendra , Calcutta and All India Radio Calcutta.

Sreeradha took to music concert and playback singing in various films (Bengali and Hindi) and TV serials since 1985. She has a number of awards, to name a few, to her credit:

1. Dishari Award for best playback singing in Bengali films "Sudhu Tomari" in 1988 and "Nilimaye Neel" in 1991.
2. Uttam Kumar Award for best playback singing in the film "Sujan Sakhi" in 1995.

3. B.F.J.A Award for best playback singing in the film "Boumoni" in 1995.
4. Lions Kalakar Award for best playback singing in Basu Bhattacharyya's bilingual Hindi film "Aastha" in 1996.
5. Ujala Anandalok Award for best playback singing in the Bengali film "Suryakanya" in 1999.

Sreeradha, till now, has rendered her voice to a considerable number of basic (non-film) cassettes and Compact Discs in Bengali Modern Songs, Rabindra

Sangeet, Devotional Songs etc. released/yet to be released by reputed record companies from time to time.

An M.A. in English Literature, Sreeradha has completed her French Diploma from "Alliance Francaise" Calcutta.

*She is an approved A grade
artiste of Doordarshan
Calcutta and All India Radio*

Prakriti : Fusion dances by children

This is a musical with fusion dances by Bay Area children based on few instrumental pieces by the maestros of Indian Classical music, Banraj Bhatia, Bhaskar Chandravarkar, Zakir Hussain and others. This will be portraying the beginning of life or creation moving with nature and human interaction with nature and also the emotinal influence of nature on human moods.

Academic Publishers and Biswas Music

Academic Publishers, Calcutta has been serving the literary and cultural needs of the Bengali Community in North America and Europe for more than a decade. They will be bringing books (Bengali literature, including classics, novel, short stories, poetry, clinary and of course Saradiya) for exhibition and sale during Durga Puja For more information and inquiries contact Academic Publishers, at phone 91-33-241-4857 or Fax 91-33-241-3702 or at the Email address acabooks@cal.vsnl.net.in.

Biswas Music (<http://www.biswas.com>) will also have a stall at our Durga Puja site. They produce digitally recorded original Bengali Music CDs.

BAY AREA PRABASI INC.

5270 Rooster Drive
San Jose, CA 95136

Email: prabasi@prabasi.org
Web: www.prabasi.org

*Serving the Bengali Community for
over 25 years ...*

Prabasi is a non-profit Cultural Organization of the Bengalis of the San Francisco Bay Area.

One fine afternoon at San Pablo Dam of May 1974, the Bengalis in the Bay Area kicked around the idea of having a Bengali organization while having a beautiful time at the picnic. Some senior members of the community, Ramen Chakraborty and late Inanen Tarafder, asked Satya Ray to organize a Bengali organization as he did Tagore society in Boston, Massachusetts. Tagore society was purely a leisurely conversation over a cup of tea which, incidentally, is a great Bengali tradition. At that moment Prabasi was conceived. The first meeting was called at the apartment of Lincoln Ave, Alameda where about forty enthusiastic Bengalis met to nurture the conceived idea of forming a Bengali Association. After long deliberations, an interim name Tagore Society was given. This sounded like a national chain of Bengali organizations started at many other places at that time. This was a pure coincidence and resulted from our love, affection, and respect for Rabin-dra Nath Tagore.

The final moment came when we gathered on July of 1974 to witness the birth of baby Prabasi. As a member of a traditional society, we started with a traditional structure which is very common in India. The first president was Sri Ramen Chakraborty as a head of the organization, and Sri Satya Ray was the first general secretary and the chief executive officer. We used to conduct all our businesses through the elected area representatives who would decide how many people would attend from an area, how much food would have to be prepared by the delegated members and the like. We kicked off Prabasi's program with a celebration of independence day on 15th August and a colorful children sports. A Bengali School was formed by Mrs. Sumitra Ray, and Mrs. Sarbani Ghosal at El Cerrito residence of Tushar Ray. The Bengali community was very small those days, about seventy families or so, and it was like a big family where everyone used to participate in Puja, cultural programs, cooking, etc. according to their area of interest.

In 1978 under the presidency of Sri Mritunjoy Ghosh the structure of the organization was amended to the present form where the president is the chief executive officer who elects his team to execute the affairs of the organization.

The next significant move for Prabasi was in 1983 when she got herself registered as a non-profit organization in California to give some tax incentive to its members, and was registered as Bay Area Prabasi Incorporated. The state of California requires a permanent body to deal with the organization; so the Board of Directors was formed in 1984 to handle liaison with the government, auditing, and organizing unscheduled programs. The execution of yearly scheduled programs are conducted by the president.

Prabasi celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1999 by hosting the 19th North American Bengali Conference. The conference was attended by 6000 people from all over North America.

Today Prabasi's membership list has about 500 families. Its annual functions are attended by over 1000 people from the Bay Area.



Geet Alankar : A Musical Journey



When was the last time you felt a musical explosion rock your senses? When was the last time your feet and your heart couldn't help but dance to the lilting beat of music?

Come and treat yourself to all these soul stirring feelings and more. Partake in a fusion of a full fledged orchestra with vocalists, when we bring to you a colorful weave of Bengali and Hindi popular music.

We will take you on a memorable journey through valleys of nostalgic songs that bring back charming memories, and songs that raise your spirit sky high. Feel the beat and power of music that will make you want to dance through the night.

WE ARE YOU - THE COMMUNITY. Don't miss out on your very own party. So, roll back your sleeves, tap your feet, let your heart pound with the roll of drums. Get ready for a musical explosion. Your kids would love it, and so will you.! It's **SHOWTIME** on **SATURDAY NIGHT** at 10:30. See you all.

