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UK and South Asia



Folk Nations is an exciting programme organised by the British Council aiming to bring together musicians, creative producers and practitioners from the UK and the South Asia region.

Through the 3 year programme, it aims to create a stronger engagement with the UK by connecting musicians and practitioners to create a dialogue and provide the space to learn from each other's culture and musical traditions, foster collaborative working and hopefully inspire the creation of new projects.

The folk sector in the UK has seen a successful re-emergence and diversification, with practitioners and artists conserving traditional music forms and styles while developing new dimensions that reflect a more contemporary sensibility and sound. South Asia is renowned for its traditional folk music forms many of which have regional particularities and identity, such as Manganiyar, Gazals and Baul music.

As part of Folk Nations, UK folk artist, song-collector and promoter, **Sam Lee** travels to Bangladesh with **Francesca Ter-Berg**, a leading klezmer cellist, **Camilo Tirado**, a London-based percussionist, and **Jonah Brody**, an international award-winning composer and multi-instrumentalist. In January 2013 they worked in a week-long residency with a group of Bangladesh's finest folk musicians to share and explore music traditions and present a performance in Dhaka.

Also, in partnership with **The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS)** and **Banglanatak dot com**, we have developed a week long music residency. UK musicians selected to participate in this project are: English banjo player **Dan Walsh**, Scottish fiddler **Patsy Reid**, Welsh harpist and chanteuse **Georgia Ruth Williams**, singer and English clog dancer **Hannah James**. They will meet and work with two musicians from India, including sarangi player **Suhail Yusuf Khan**; two musicians from Pakistan **Shahid Hamid**, a vocalist and **Turab Ali Hashmi**, a sitar player and two musicians from Bangladesh in a week long exploration of each others music and traditions. This residency project will be concluded by a work in progress style performance for a select audience in Kolkata.

Image: Martin Simpson + Ariebe Azhar

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