The research problem

In the late nineteenth century, Hindustani music encountered Calcutta’s public sphere. As a consequence, this diverse musical tradition, which had been predominantly in the hands of hereditary occupational castes and communities of musicians, came face to face with the bustle of social and cultural experimentation and innovation which defined the “Bengal Renaissance”. Hindustani music was carried there as much through...
Project aims

**Define the aims of the project**

This project aims to frame, shape and understand the role of interculturality as a generating creative factor in the musical life of late 19th century Calcutta, be that in Hindustani classical music or in other genres such as Rabindra Sangeet, popular music and so on. For Hindustani classical music, this line of inquiry aims to consider the impact of interculturalism on its social organisation, performance practice, and the transmission of its musical knowledge. It seeks to generate further understanding about the diversity of practice and cultural syncretism during this pivotal point in the tradition’s musical past. It aims to do this by generating documentation of, and critical engagement with, the diverse range of intercultural responses and efforts mostly ignored or forgotten in the national narrative. Outside of classical music, the project aims to identify and critically analyse interculturality as a creative force and impetus behind the creation of new approaches to popular and art musics.

Individual projects may adopt an interpretive approach to the broad topic including, but not limited to, one or more of the following threads:

- Hereditary Musicians, Migration and Social Fabric
- Modernity and the Institutionalisation of Music
- Institutional and Individual Agency in the Transmission of Knowledge
- Remembrance/memorialization/orality
- Translating selves/translating practices, notation, performance
- Traditional Practices and Social Relations in the Public space/Public claims
- Contested territories/Contested memories,
- Places, Spaces, Performance practices
- The Rise of Poet-Composers
- Music and Print Culture

Expected outcomes

**Highlight the expected outcomes of the project**

We hope (1) to make productive inroads into diversifying the historical imagination of 19th century Calcutta’s musical past; (2) to locate and document relevant primary and secondary text based, oral, recorded and visual material; (3) to form, shape and address questions of how this can provide greater historical depth and nuance which can highlight a more diverse past for Hindustani music; and (4) to contribute to contemporary intercultural practice through historical grounding.

How will the project address the Goals of the above Themes?

**Describe how the project will address the goals of one or more of the 6 Themes listed above.**

While this project is primarily located in the disciplines of Musicology and Cultural History, the field of...
enquiry is not internal to one discipline solely and it needs to be navigated and mapped in conversation with other disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences, viz. Ethnomusicology, Anthropology and Performance Studies and so on. Thus, it will be collaborative and interdisciplinary in nature.

Capabilities and Degrees Required

List the ideal set of capabilities that a student should have for this project. Feel free to be as specific or as general as you like. These capabilities will be input into the online application form and students who opt for this project will be required to show that they can demonstrate these capabilities.

An MPhil in History, Anthropology, Sociology, Cultural Studies, English, Music, Arts and Aesthetics. Relevant musical background and knowledge of Bengali an advantage.
A proposal, no longer than 1000 words, with a specific topic and indicating research questions, has to be submitted. An application without a relevant proposal will not be considered.

Potential Collaborators

Please visit the IITB website www.iitb.ac.in OR Monash Website www.monash.edu to highlight some potential collaborators that would be best suited for the area of research you are intending to float.

N/A

Select up to (4) keywords from the Academy’s approved keyword list (available at http://www.iitbmonash.org/becoming-a-research-supervisor/) relating to this project to make it easier for the students to apply.

- Humanities, Misc/ Uncategorised (From approved list)
- Music, History, Nationalism, Representation (Additional suggestions)