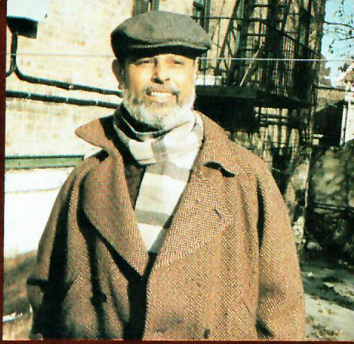


বাংলায় গান



গৌতম দাশগুপ্ত

Contemporary Bengali Songs Written by
GAUTAM DASGUPTA

With John Leventhal, Lincoln Schleifer
and Larry Campbell!

All Royalty to be Donated to
Bengal Engineering
College

SONGS IN BENGALI

Gautam Dasgupta is currently a professor at Columbia University, New York. He came to the States in 1970 and considers his music a hobby, secondary to his teaching and research in the field of engineering sciences. Just as important to him as his early educational experiences (all proceeds of this album are to be donated to his alma mater – the *Bengal Engineering College, India*) are his early musical works. Although he had started with English lyrics, he soon began to write in his native language, Bengali. He wrote his first Bengali words the day his daughter **Anisha** was born. The song, based on Jose Afonso's melody, and John Leventhal's accompaniment speaks of the expectations of every parent.

This album **SONGS IN BENGALI** was inspired by Malvina Reynolds, Woody Guthrie, John Lennon and Bob Marley. It is a statement of independence and freedom, the two qualities which truly embody Gautam's personality. To him, freedom of thought, freedom to imagine, freedom of emotion, and freedom to express ones inner feelings, are the messages most strongly conveyed in his music.

The theme, *Songs in Bengali*, is Gautam's first recording with Lincoln Schleifer and Larry Campbell. This is the free-flow of life, joy and

happiness. Because of the transcendental nature of the music, I find that my inability to understand Bengali does not prevent me from comprehending the songs themselves. Often, lyrics (after translation and explanation) were exactly as I had anticipated. The beauty of Gautam's music is the universality which allows it to be placed in bins intended for musical categories as diverse as *jazz, rock, new age, singer-songwriter*.

Four songs of this album were produced by John Leventhal, who has gone on to produce hits of Rosanne Cash, Shawn Colvin, Mark Cohn and Rodney Crowell. In the original master, on four tracks, John recorded and played all the instruments by himself in his living room. Due to his hectic schedule he referred Gautam to Lincoln Schleifer and Larry Campbell to complete the project. Lincoln recorded and performed with Bob Telson, Don Fagen, Warren Haynes, to mention a few. Larry is on Broadway when he is not touring with Cyndi Lauper, Rosanne Cash or Mark Cohen. Larry is also a song writer and had hits in Europe (e.g. in Norwegian) and in the States, notably with Eddie Brickell. Larry and Lincoln have been producing hundreds of Karaoke numbers which are gaining worldwide popularity every day. Teresa Williams and Charlene De Christopher performed the back up vocals. Teresa is an actress in New York City

and Charlene is a Production Co-ordinator of television shows. Gautam told me that without the enthusiastic support of *Darry D'Monte*, The Times of India, Bombay and *R.V. Pandit*, CBS of India, this album never would have been released. I understand that a CD with all these songs and instrumental tracks is going to be released from Sony Music, New York, very soon.

In *Money* Gautam depicts the power wielded by wealth and those who possess it. His inspiration was a news item of *Abbie Hoffman* throwing dollar bills down to the floor of the Stock Exchange. *Gone are those Days* laments, in many different moods, the passing of time between the present and his years at school. *Calcutta* is where his hopes for the change in the society lies. **Spring fever** speak of serious love. The first two lines are from a Tibetan melody, *Feeling Uneasy*, mocks foolish love. *Endurance* was inspired by Barbara Müller's German Lyric *Übermenschliche Kraft*.

In this collection the music is for both the past and present, and the expressive melodies help bridge the gap between East and West. By listening to his songs, it is possible to hear the many voices for which Gautam sings.

– CHARLES LYONHART
New York, June 6, 1993

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