

Invoking Bulleh Shah

Project Bulleya, a collaboration between contemporary dancer Sumeet Nagdev, electronic sarod player Soumik Datta and percussionist Bernhard Schimpelsberger, will include recitations of Bulleh Shah's poems and the performers' personal anecdotes

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Mumbai
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This year, for the first time since its inception four years ago, the Ahsas International Dance Arts Festival will include live music. The performance titled Project Bulleya, inspired by the poetry of Baba Bulleh Shah, is the culmination of contemporary dancer Sumeet Nagdev's collaboration with London-based musicians Soumik Datta and Bernhard Schimpelsberger.



Contemporary dancer Sumeet Nagdev

When Nagdev heard Circle of Sound — Datta and Schimpelsberger's band — perform at the Blue Frog earlier this year, he was determined to work with the duo. Datta's invention of the electric sarod has allowed him to give a contemporary twist to the Indian classical instrument. Austrian-born Schimpelsberger, who plays his drum kit like a tabla maestro, also enjoys blending Western and Eastern sounds.

On Nagdev's suggestion, the musicians decided to create a performance based on Bulleh Shah's poetry. "I was amazed at how relevant his 300-year-old poems were. They're extremely

progressive,” says Schimpelsberger. Because they found the poems suitable for contemporary consumption, the trio decided to incorporate personal experiences and stories into the performance.



Soumik Datta and Bernhard Schimpelsberger

“We have chosen three poems that talk about love, learning, and our reason for being. Each of us has a story relevant to the three poems,” explains Nagdev. While most of the concert will have Nagdev dancing solo to the duo’s music, all three will take turns with their narratives. “Our performance is centred around the human tendency to search for answers,” reveals Schimpelsberger, who will talk about his experience of studying Indian classical music under his guru Pandit Suresh Talwalkar in Pune. The music they composed for the performance, adds the drummer, is inspired by Nagdev’s movements.

When: April 28, 7 pm onwards

Where: St Andrews Auditorium, Bandra

Call: 24366777/ 6/ 1

<http://www.mid-day.com/lifestyle/2013/apr/280413-dancer-sumeet-nagdev-bulleh-shah-bernhard-schimpelsberger-bulleya.htm>

Bulleya

"Bulleya"		
Single by Junoon		
from the album <i>Parvaaz</i>		
Released	1999	
Format	Cassette, CD	
Recorded	1999	
Genre	Sufi rock	
Length	4:52 (album version) 5:55 (reprise) 4:46 (music video)	
Label	EMI, Sadaf Stereo	
Writer(s)	Bulleh Shah	
Producer	Salman Ahmad	
Junoon singles chronology		
"Azadi" (1998)	" Bulleya " (1999)	"Zamane Ke Andaz" (2001)
Parvaaz track listing		
" Bulleya " (1)	"Pyar Bina" (2)	

"Bulleya" (Urdu: بلیا, literal English translation: "Oh! Bulleh Shah") is a song by the Pakistani sufi rock band Junoon, released in 1999. It is the first track from the band's fifth album, *Parvaaz* (1999), recorded at Abbey Road Studios, London and released on EMI Records. The song is a famous kafi written by the sufi saint Bulleh Shah. Bulleh Shah is famous for his spiritual and metaphysical poetry, and *Bullah Ki Jaana* (the poem on which the song is based) is one of his well-known poems. The song is composed and produced by lead guitarist and founder of the band Salman Ahmad. It is the lead single on the album, the song uses blending of rock guitars and bluesy vocals with eastern elements like the use of tablas, raga-inspired melodies and traditional Pakistani folk music.

It is considered one of the best sufi rock songs ever recorded by Junoon, and is often performed at concerts. The song is one of most well known and popular track by Junoon, also listeners and critics have continued to praise "Bulleya" as one of the greatest rock songs of all time in Pakistani music industry.

In addition, a new version, named "Bulleya/Lonely Heart", with addition of English lyrics to the song featured in the soundtrack album *Rock & Roll Jihad*, released in 2010. The song has also featured in several other albums by the band like *Junoon for Peace* (2001), *United for Peace* (2001) and *Dewaar: The Best of Junoon* (2004).

Conception

Background

Bullah Ki Jaana is a Kafi written by the sufi saint Bulleh Shah, famous for his spiritual and metaphysical poetry,^[1] *Bullah Ki Jaana* is one of his well-known poems. While reciting Kafis, Bulleh Shah would go on dancing continuously, till he attained the stage of *haal* (divine ecstasy).^[2]

In his poem, Bullah Shah is expressing the relationship between Man and God.^[3] Also, Bulleh Shah contemplates the origins of mankind using himself as a metaphor.^[4] He expresses doubts about previously held views of the emergence of humans on Earth. He reasons, by referring to himself, that one can never understand the laws of nature and one's place in the Universe.

Track listing

Bulleya All songs written and composed by Junoon.

No.	Title	Length
1.	"Bulleya"	4:52
2.	"Bulleya" (Reprise)	5:55
3.	"Bulleya" (Video)	4:46

Cover versions

- Pakistani rock band Call performed a live session cover of Junoon's hit song "Bulleya" on Indus Music.^[5]
- In 2005, Rabbi Shergill's covered a rock/fusion version of the song, which became a chart-topper in India.
- In 2009, Riaz Ali Khan performed a rendition of the song at the Coke Studio Season Two.

Personnel

Junoon

- Salman Ahmad - vocals, lead guitar
- Ali Azmat - vocals, backing vocals
- Brian O'Connell - bass guitar, backing vocals

Additional musicians

- Ustad Aashiq Ali Mir - dholak, tabla

References

- [1] Bulleh Shah: Life and poetry (<http://www.apnaorg.com/poetry/bullahn/>)
- [2] 'Encyclopedia of Indian Literature Vol.5', Sufism (Punjabi), pp.4208. ISBN 81-260-1221-8
- [3] Kartar Singh Duggal, *Literary Encounters*, pp.36
- [4] Poem translation (<http://www.poetry-chaikhana.com/B/BullehShah/BullehtomeIa.htm>)
- [5] Bulleya (Junoon Cover) - Call (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPHkcADMAfc>) Retrieved on August 4, 2010

External links

- Junoon Official Website (<http://www.junoon.com>)
- Bulleya Official Lyrics (http://www.junoon.com/jeemography_files/lyrics_files/Parvaaz/Bulleya.htm)

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