



# CONCEPT NOTE

## SAARC FESTIVAL OF TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND WORKSHOP 2021 – BHUTAN (VIRTUAL MODE)

*SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Music is one of the most important aspects of culture. History has many examples of how music has been capable of healing, exciting and invigorating. It has also brought people together in celebration, enhancing friendships and inspired societies. Whilst music is a universal language, the music of South Asia has been embraced by many traditional instruments portraying the unique characteristics yet, reflecting diverse styles, languages and relevance within each culture. The Centre proposes a Festival celebrating and highlighting the evolution of these traditional musical instruments and how music from around the world often bears resemblance to that which flourishes in the entire Region. Festival shall invite 6 musicians/instrumentalists from each Member State displaying their state of art performance using traditional instruments, whilst sharing thought evoking and informative working sessions which would shed further light on the inherent ties that bind the Region with regards to the art of musical creation.

#### Covid-19 Advisory

As the world is faced with the unprecedented situation due to covid-19, SCC requests and recommends to follow all precautions with the aim of reducing and avoiding the risk of being exposed to such situations. Further recommends taking into account the measures such as social distancing, wearing masks, sanitization and etc. as prescribed by the World Health Organization and the concerned Ministry of the respective member state.

### 2. OBJECTIVES

- i. To provide an international platform for the artistes to play their Authentic Regional Traditional Musical Instruments.
- ii. To educate and share among the public, the rich and varied Traditional Musical Instruments and the Music of the SAARC Region.
- iii. To support, encourage and stimulate talent and artistry in Traditional Musical Instruments and Music.
- iv. To build intercultural links and form interpersonal friendships through the medium of Music using the traditional, authentic music and musical instruments

### 3. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The SAARC Festival of Traditional Instrumental Music and Workshop 2021 as a proposition came into being at the annual governing board Meeting of SCC in 2019. Unfortunately, the scheduled programme was not held in 2020 due to Covid-19 and its



nuisance and its mutilations. The Programme has been carried forward to the year of 2021, as per the approved calendar of activities of the 58th programming committee of the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).

While SCC is delighted to be collaborating with the member State of Bhutan, it is important to ensure that the organizing this programme should not interfere with the well-being of people as the region still apt for vulnerability due to the pandemic. SCC recommends that the organizers of the festival and the relevant programs/ workshops strictly adhere to the health guidelines issued by the respective ministries in line with the challenges, and design a suitable program for the prevailing situation.

### 3.1 Programme Format/ Protocol (Virtual)

While SAARC Cultural Centre avails its opportunity to the esteemed member State of Bhutan to send its detailed proposal to reach the SAARC Cultural Centre on or before **20<sup>th</sup> March 2021** via respective focal points, it is extremely requested that the proposal must comply with the theme, proposition and the objectives set out in the SAARC mandate for culture (**See Section 2**). Further review will be undertaken by the Centre and corresponded immediately back to the collaborative partner for any clarification or for further information. As the programme will be held virtually, the format has been realigned accordingly to match the requirements.

The Festival shall include the following components.

#### 3.1.1 Pre-recorded Performances –

Will feature the instrumentalists with their Traditional Musical Instruments representing the uniqueness of the Member State, and diversity of the region, giving an opportunity to the members of the public, to view and experience the cultures of the SAARC Region (**Please see ANNEXURE I for Registration**). .

Nominated troupe of instrumentalists shall send a pre-recorded performance in video format (Please see: **Section 5** for technical specifications) recorded to fulfill the requirements of this programme therefore the copyrights to the ownership, digital and physical storage, and sharing video footage will remain with the SAARC Cultural Centre.

Pre-recorded performance should be choreographed in a way that it emulates the art of traditional instrumental music.

#### 3.1.1. a Performance Guidelines (Pre-recorded Performance)

- Each member state may submit **minimum of four items** (Please refer to Section 5.V) for a maximum duration of One (01) hour.
- Each item must not exceed 15 minutes.

- Member States are requested to be prepared with a **minimum of 4 Traditional Instrumental Musical items** to be presented during the SAARC Festival of Traditional Instrumental Music and Workshop 2021.
- All artistes/ Performers (instrumentalists), should present themselves in colourful traditional attire throughout the video.
- Performance can be arranged in a studio/stage as it preserves the sound quality.

### 3.1.2 Interactive workshop

In addition to the performances, SAARC Cultural Centre, in association with the esteemed Member State of Bhutan will organize an interactive workshop via online platform to the participants under the theme **“Insight into traditional instruments: A South Asian Walkthrough.”** This will be exclusive for all the Traditional Musical Instrumental artistes and for selected academics and researchers enlisted by each member state (maximum of 10 delegates) on the final day of the programme **(Please see ANNEXURE II for Registration)**. The primary objective will be to invigorate interaction between artists and to evoke the interest on ethno musicological aspects of these musical preserves and to stimulate the traditional artists to identify the common characteristics too. Admission to all events organized under the SAARC Festival of Traditional Instrumental Music and Workshop 2021 are free.

### 3.1.3 Closing session

The Closing session will include a concluding discussion by the Traditional Instrumentalists from all the participating Member States.

## 4. OFFICIAL NOMINATIONS

- i. All SAARC Member States are invited to nominate up to a maximum of 6 participants representing an individual troupe comprising of traditional instrumentalists.
- ii. The host Member State of Bhutan may nominate up to a maximum of 12 participants (2 troupes) of traditional instrumentalists to take part in the pre-recorded performances.
- iii. Additionally, each member state will nominate/ recommend and send the names of selected academics and research scholars to participate in the Online Interactive Workshop (Please refer to Section 3.1.2)
- iv. Nominated artistes should have excelled in their field of Traditional Instrumental Music. **(Please refer to Section 6)**

## 5. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

(Pre-recorded video must comply to the below mentioned guidelines)

- i. Maximum duration for all items: One (01) Hour
- ii. Duration for each item must not exceed 15 minutes.
- iii. Video files should be FHD (Full HD 1920\*1080) in MP4/MOV/AVI

- iv. Video must be recorded **within the time line of one month period** of the submission date
- v. The video should be named **by a desired title that includes the name of the traditional instrument**
- vi. Name/s of the artist/s of each item must be submitted in the soft copy in a separate file folder under the same title.
- vii. Each participant must be clearly visible in the video.
- viii. Videos will be accepted if they satisfy the technical requirements mentioned above.

## 6. NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Details of the nominated Traditional Instrumentalist(s) artistes, together with the following information must be sent to the SAARC Cultural Centre forwarded through the relevant line Ministry concerned, and the respective Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Member States, to be reached by the SAARC Secretariat, by **20<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

1. Short biography (maximum 250 words)
2. Contact details
3. Current engagement in addition to the registration form (**ANNEXTURE I**)

**Please Note that the Member States are also requested to send the following information regarding the nominated participants, directly to the addresses of the officials of the SAARC Cultural Centre as given below;**

a.	250-word biography of <b>each nominated participant of the troupe</b>
b.	Brief description of the musical items being presented (preferably with a picture)
c.	High-resolution photographs of the nominated participants
d.	High-resolution photographs of the Traditional Musical Instrumental artistes' troupe in performance, if available and appropriate.

Professor (Mrs.) Prashanthi Narangoda/ Director  
[director@saarcculture.org](mailto:director@saarcculture.org)

Dr. Anamika Biswas/ Deputy Director – Programmes  
[dd-programme@saarcculture.org](mailto:dd-programme@saarcculture.org)

SCC affirms its fullest cooperation to the collaborative partner nominated by the esteemed member state of Bhutan, and prepared to assist in every aspect of planning, organizing, monitoring and executing of this programme.

## 7. DATES, DURATION AND VENUE

Final confirmation of the dates, program agenda and duration of the Programme will be announced upon confirmation of the same by the honoured host Member State of Bhutan in collaboration with the SAARC Cultural Centre. Until such time, the SAARC Cultural Centre

would be grateful to receive nominations for the SAARC Festival of Traditional Instrumental Music and Workshop 2021, no later than **20th March 2021**.

#### **8. DEADLINES FOR NOMINATIONS**

- i. The names of the nominated participants must reach the SAARC Secretariat no later than **20<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.
- ii. The details of the nominated participants as requested must reach the SAARC Cultural Centre no later than the 26th March 2021 in order to be included in the Brochure. (Any material received after this date may not be included in the official Brochure).

#### **9. OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME**

- i. The instrumental artists of the region will reveal the significant factors of traditional music to the contemporary society.
- ii. Researchers and academics of the region may explore some new depths and dimensions of traditional music of the region.
- iii. The modern artists and cultural specialist will see the possibility of enhancing and promoting the unique aspects of traditional musical instruments of the region.
- iv. The wider community will be aware of the rich cultural heritage of the SAARC Region through Traditional Music and Musical Instruments.
- v. Modern professional performing artists will apply the unity aspects of traditional music from one single perspective and understanding to promote and establish the regional harmony by giving them a platform to compose and play music together.
- vi. SCC will be able to document and develop the literary evidence of this programme by way of an exclusive brochure bearing useful information of traditional instruments represented, artists and the outcome of the workshop.



**REGISTRATION FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS  
SAARC FESTIVAL OF TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND WORKSHOP 2021 -  
BHUTAN (VIRTUAL MODE)**

**SECTION I- PERSONAL DETAILS**

i. Participant's First Name: \*  Last Name

ii. Specialised Instrument (Please specify)

iii. Nationality:

iv. Address:  City   
 Zip code  Country

v. DOB:   Date   Month     Year

vi. Gender: Male  Female  v. Email Address

vi. Contact : Mobile   
 : Landline

vii. Designation:  Affiliation(s)

viii. Have you ever participated in any programmes organised by the SAARC Cultural Centre? Yes  No   
 If yes, please specify

ix. Academically trained  Self-taught

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Please specify the last three performances you participated)**

Name of the Event(s)/Programme(s)	International/National	Individual/Troupe	Year/date(s) Held

**SECTION II**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION ABOUT THE PROPOSED ITEMS TO BE SUBMITTED/ PERFORMED**

ITEM NO.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION	NAME/S OF THE PARTICIPANT/S	SPECIFIC INSTRUMENT/S	DURATION


**DECLARATION:**

I/We do hereby certify that the items performed in the SAARC Festival of Traditional Instrumental Music has/have not been performed at any other national or international arena or not submitted to any other performance or a competition or not a copy or duplicate of another composition, and that I/we confirm that the items that are composed and performed are the original work of the named artists.

Date:

Signature/s

	Name	Signature
01	.....	.....
02	.....	.....
03	.....	.....
04	.....	.....
05	.....	.....
06	.....	.....

\* In the case of group performances, please indicate the name of the Group leader in the particular box and clearly indicate the names of all the participants at the bottom of the application where you have to insert your signature. This will be the name appeared in your Certificate.



**REGISTRATION FORM FOR ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS**  
**SAARC FESTIVAL OF TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND WORKSHOP 2021 – BHUTAN**  
**(VIRTUAL MODE)**

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RELEVANT LINE MINISTRY

	Name of the resource person	Affiliation	Academic Qualifications	Expertise/Interests Teaching/ Research	Contact Information	
					Phone No.* Mobile/WhatsApp Mobile	E-mail
01						
02						
03						
04						
05						
06						
07						
08						
09						
10						

I/We do hereby authenticate that the above named scholars/ researchers have been nominated and recommended to participate in the Online Interactive Workshop as part of the SAARC Festival of Traditional Instrumental Music and Workshop to be held in Bhutan.

Name of the Officer attesting : .....

Signature of the Office : .....

Date: .....

Official Stamp