



HEMANGO BHUPEN

A SONG FOR
EVERYONE

Tales of the 1960 **peace initiative**
against the **linguistic riots** in Assam

In 1960 a major riot broke out in Assam between the Assamese and Bengali communities. The issue centered on the political decision of making Assamese the state language. Hemango Biswas, singer-composer and one of the key activist-organizers of the Indian People's Theatre Association in Assam, wanted to organize a peace programme against the riots. He asked Bhupen Hazarika, celebrated singer, composer, filmmaker and activist, to join hands. The duo started a peace initiative, journeying across Assam, involving a number of local artistes and performing at several places. This album relates the tale of that unique peace journey, drawing from the songs composed by the duo, memoirs written by Hemango Biswas as well as two rare performances by Moghai Ojha, the magician of Assamese dhol, and Shankha Ghosh, the revered Bengali poet. This album is part of a project on 'Hemango Biswas, Bhupen Hazarika and the Assam IPTA in the 1950s and '60s' (funded by India Foundation for the Arts and Tata Trusts).

Gratitude to Jayanta Madhab Dutta and Manas Pratim Borah for Moghai Ojha's recording, Bibhuranjan Choudhury for a scratch recording of 'Haradhon Rongmon Katha', Archana Mahanta for a piece of information on 'Kauri Pore' and Dhritisundar Raychaudhuri for helping out with Shankha Ghosh's recording.

Cover : Somnath Ghosh



- * **Sonabandhure (Snippet)** - Traditional Bhatiyali (sung by **Hemango Biswas**)
- * **Haradhon-Rongmon Katha** - Composed by **Hemango Biswas** and **Bhupen Hazarika**
- * **Kauri Pore** - Lyrics by **Keshab Mahanta**, Tune by **Rudra Barua**
- * **Biswabijoyi Nowjoyan** - Composed by **Jyoti Prasad Agarwala**
- * **Pothe Namu Aloker** - Composed by **Bhupen Hazarika**, translated by **Hemango Biswas**
- * **Jhak Jhak Jhak Jhak** - Composed by **Bhupen Hazarika**, translated by **Hemango Biswas**
- * **Pratidwani Shuni** - Composed by **Bhupen Hazarika**, translated by **Hemango Biswas**
- * **Sokoler Gaan** (Poem) - Written and read by **Shankha Ghosh**

Music Direction: Rongili Biswas

Script: Rongili Biswas and Jayati Bhattacharya (based on Hemango Biswas's letters to his wife Ranu during the months of riots, his memoirs about the piece mission, songs composed by Bhupen Hazarika and him and sung during the peace initiative, a poem by Shankha Ghosh and a dhol performance by Moghai Ojha)

Music: **Female Vocal:** Rongili Biswas, **Male Vocal / Assamese Dhol, Pepa, Taal:** Dhrupadjyoti Das, **Drums, Cajon, Bangla Dhol, Dubki:** Gaurab Chatterjee, **Keyboard:** Avik Ganguli, **Guitar, Dotara (Thread-Stringed):** Manabendra Bhattacharya, **Flute:** Bappa Sengupta and Dhrubojyoti Das, **Violin:** Babua Das, **Dotara (Metal-Stringed):** Laksman Das Baul, **Bass:** Sanket Bhattacharya, **Vocal Chorus:** Manabendra Bhattacharya and Gaurab Chatterjee, **Principal Music Consultant:** Gaurab Chatterjee **Suggestions:** Manabendra Bhattacharya, Somali Panda and Nivedita Chakraborti
Narration: Sibaji Bandyopadhyay, Rongili Biswas, Gaurab Chatterjee, **Sound:** Sanjoy Ghosh, Ajit Kumar Prasad



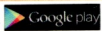
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