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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The French Embassy to Nepal have the pleasure to present you this cultural event provided by the group Singhini Consort.

The group, which celebrates this year its 15 years together, seeks to discover the unknown facets of scholarly, indigenous, and popular traditions of the Himalayas. It is also a musical bridge between the Western and Eastern scholarly traditions. Led by Franck Bernède, its artistic director, the group is made up of about fifteen musicians, singers and dancers. Along with the Nepalese artists, there are also musicians and dancers from other Himalayan regions, including India. Founded in 2001, the group has performed on numerous national and international stages.

For April 20th event, the group is composed of three musicians:



Franck Bernède

The musical path of Franck Bernède, cellist and ethnomusicologist, is crossed and influenced by various currents/trends. Born into a family of musicians, he began his education under the direction of his father, the violinist and conductor Jean-Claude Bernède. He then studied with Alain Meunier and Reine Flachot at the National Conservatory of Music of Lyon as well as with Arto Noras at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki (Finland) where he was awarded his higher diploma. He completed his studies in the baroque music classes of Christophe Coin and William Christie at the National Conservatory of Music of Paris where he obtained in 1985 a first prize in baroque cello. Since then, Franck Bernède has appeared in many European countries as well as in the United States, Japan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Taiwan. He has participated in many concerts and recordings in ensembles specializing in Baroque selection such as The Concert of Nations (Jordi Savall). Frank is actively involved in the field of ethnomusicology which he has been researching in India and Nepal for thirty years focusing on the bardic traditions of the Central Himalayas as well as on the music of the Newars of Kathmandu. Franck is the founder and director of the Singhini Research Center, an organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Himalayan music and dance.



Santosh Bhakta Shrestha

Santosh Bhakta Shrestha, born in 1975, began studying the musical instrument esraj at the age of 11 under the guidance of teachers Mohan Prasad Joshi and Krishna Narayan Shrestha. A leading artist in Nepalese Radio and Television, he has produced a dozen solo albums as well as in groups such as Vajra and Trikaal. A member of the Singhini group since 2003, Santosh has performed both in Nepal and abroad.



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Bidur Rajkarnikar

Born in 1976, Bidur Rajkarnikar began his musical studies under the direction of his father with whom he learnt the art of tablas and Newari percussion. Disciple of the masters Krishna Narayan Shrestha, Ram Hari Gurung and Mohan Prasad Joshi, he graduated from Prayag Sangeet Samiti of Allahabad (India). Winner of the competitions of Radio-Nepal (1995) and the prestigious Shambhu Mishra Memorial Award (2006), he is the founder of the group Vajra. He has toured extensively in Nepal and abroad. He has been a member of the Singhini group

since 2001.

Pieces that would be played on April 20th, 2019

The following musical pieces would feature Frank in a solo performance as well as in a musical collaboration with Santosh and Bidur who would incorporate esraj and tabla in this musical journey that would take you through time:

- I. Joseph-Marie-Clément Dall'Abaco : Capricci 1 for cello solo
- II. Johann-Sebastian Bach : Suite n° III BWV 1009 (extract)
- III. Gaspard Cassado, Suite for cello solo (extracts)
- IV. Vitali Passacaille (extracts)
- V. « Le chant des oiseaux »
- VI. Diego Ortiz. 3 Ricercars