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## **Tagore's Songs of Love and Destiny**

Translated and specially transcribed for piano by Alain Danielou (1907 – 1986)

Presented by Francesca Cassio (vocalist) and Maestro Ugo Bonessi (piano)

Introduction and presentation of Tagore's songs in Bengali by Dr. Reba Som

(Collaboration: Italian Embassy Cultural Institute; Alain Danielou Foundation; and Delhi Music Society)

**Location:** AUDITORIUM

**Description:**



***“Songs and Poetries of Rabindranath Tagore  
in the Transcription of Prof. Alain Danielou  
for Voice and Piano”***

***Performed by Francesca Cassio and Ugo Bonessi***

**In collaboration with Italian Embassy Cultural Institute; The Harsharan Foundation; Alain Danielou Foundation; and Delhi Music Society**

As Professor Alain Danielou writes in his biography, Tagore requested him to transcribe some songs from the Rabindra Sangeet according to the western vogue of the time, for voice and piano. It was infact The Poet's wish that some of his songs could be sung also in the West. It was an innovative concept that Tagore himself wanted to promote, and that up nowadays nobody has yet performed in this form.

Alain Danielou worked over 50 years on this project. He translated into english and transcribed for piano only 18 songs, in a way that the original melodies -with their embellishments and peculiar raga movements- could be recognized, but with a piano harmonic accompaniment that could support and emphasize the meaning of the poetries.

The work of Danielou shines mostly in the elegant piano arrangement, and in the beautiful translation into english (and french) that match with the melodies as well as with the meaning. The blending of the musical Indian language with the western notation, and harmony, requires skills in both discipline, and for this reason for long time these song have never been performed. Due a professional training in both Classical Western and Hindusthani vocal music, in 2007 Dr. Francesca Cassio and Maestro Ugo Bonessi have been in charge on the behalf of the Danielou Foundation to perform and record -for the first time- the cycle of the 18 songs of Tagore transcribed by Alain Danielou.

**The concert will be introduced by the rendition of some songs in the original bengoli version performed by Dr. Mrs. Reba Som, one of the leading scholar and performer of Rabindra Sangeet.**

**Francesca Cassio,**



Dr. Mrs. Francesca Cassio is an Italian singer, and phd scholar, trained in Indian vocal music.

**Lecturer of Indian Music at the Conservatory of Vicenza and Lecturer of Ethnomusicology at the University of Trento (Italy).**

Started her studies in Indian Music in 1991 at the Fondazione Cini, Venice with Sangeeta Chaterjee.

Trained since 1994 in the tradition of *dhrupad* singing by

Padmabhushan **Ustad Rahim Fahimuddin Dagar**, and **Amelia Cuni. S**

She studies since few years the romantic genre of *thumri* under the precious guide of Padmabhushan **Smt. Girija Devi**, and **Saira Begum**.

**Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology (in affiliation with BHU, under the guide of Prof. Ritwik Sanyal)**, with a fieldwork-research on last living courtesans of India (baiji-s), she had the chance to learn from them their rare musical and danced repertoires.

**Dr. Cassio regularly performs and records for Italian national television, theatres, radio and cinema.** Her music and performances are realised on cds by Warner bros., and other international companies.

Composer of music and lyrics, she won national awards in this field.

Among her collaborations, the Oscar Awardees Luis Bacalov and Nicola Piovani, the winners of Mercury Prize Talvin Sing and Robert Miles, the international best seller Taffetas, Eddi Powell, Paolo Vivaldi, Susanna Tamaro, Roberto Laneri.

Author of the book: "Percorsi della Voce", Ut Orpheus Ed, 2000, Bologna: and writer of several articles on international journals.

**[www.francescacassio.com](http://www.francescacassio.com)**

**Maestro Ugo Bonessi:**

Ugo Bonessi was born in Rome in 1961. He took his degree in piano with Maestro Fausto Di Cesare.

He has been present on the Rome music scene for many years, not only on the concert stage, where he has performed as a soloist, in duo piano performances, with orchestra, and in duos for piano and voice, but also as a musicologist, teacher, and organizer of concerts. He has organized and performed in several festivals of Russian music sponsored by the Soviet Embassy, as well as in festivals dedicated to Scriabin and Satie. As a musicologist he has contributed to the Treccani Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana, and has published numerous articles and held conferences on western classical, arabic and indian music. A frequent traveler to India, he has studied the classical singing traditions of khyal and dhrupad. His recordings are published by "III Millennio".

**[www.ugobonessi.it](http://www.ugobonessi.it)**

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