

Music & Performance Club

Silpa-Sadana, Palli Samgathana Vibhaga, Visva-Bharati

Mentor / Coordinator: Dr. Tanim Bhattacharya



Music & Performance Club, Silpa-Sadana - a performance activity in the club space.

1. Introduction and Rationale

The Music & Performance Club of Silpa-Sadana has been formed as an extended curricular engagement to provide students with a structured platform for music and performance-related activities beyond their regular course curricula. In a design institute, performance practice contributes to the development of creativity, confidence, communication, collaboration and cultural sensitivity. The club therefore complements technical design education by creating opportunities for students to explore voice, movement, rhythm, acting and collective performance.

The club's activities are aligned with the broader educational and cultural environment of Visva-Bharati. Alongside encouraging contemporary and experimental expression, the club provides scope for traditional, folk and heritage-based forms of music, dance and theatre. The result is an interdisciplinary space where students from Textile Design, Ceramic & Glass Design, and Furniture & Interior Design participate together.

Core objectives

- Promote artistic expression through music, dance, recitation, drama and live performance.
- Develop technical and performance skills including vocal and instrumental practice, choreography, stage presence and performance preparation.
- Encourage cultural and heritage-based performances in keeping with the cultural philosophy of Visva-Bharati.
- Build teamwork through group performances, rehearsals and collaborative productions.
- Provide opportunities for workshops, competitions, showcases and interaction with experienced practitioners.

- Strengthen aesthetic and emotional sensibilities through rhythm, harmony, movement and expressive storytelling.

2. Organisation, Mentorship and Student Participation

The club functions through faculty mentorship and an elected/assigned student body, enabling students to take responsibility for planning, rehearsal, coordination and presentation. The club profile identifies Dr. Tanimu Bhattacharya as Coordinator, with Dr. Ashis Mitra, Ms. Sukanya Chatterjee, Sri Sumitabha Pal and Mrs. Jaya Boro as teacher mentors.

Role / Area	Names / Responsibility
Coordinator	Dr. Tanimu Bhattacharya
Teacher Mentors	Dr. Ashis Mitra; Ms. Sukanya Chatterjee; Sri Sumitabha Pal; Mrs. Jaya Boro
Performance Teams	Song, Dance, Recitation and Drama teams led by designated student team leaders

3. Role in Departmental and Institutional Events

The Music & Performance Club serves not only as a student activity group but also as an important cultural support system for Silpa-Sadana and the Palli Samgathana Vibhaga. The club undertakes preparation, rehearsal, student participation and performance support for major departmental programmes and inaugural occasions.

- Shilpotsav – cultural and performance-related participation connected with the department's artistic activities.
- Rathindra Mela – preparation and presentation of cultural performances.
- Freshers' Welcome – performances and cultural engagement for welcoming new students.
- Farewell – student-led performances and cultural contributions marking the completion of an academic journey.
- Teachers' Day Celebration – musical, dance, recitation and other performance-based presentations.
- Inaugural programmes – cultural presentations and ceremonial performance support for departmental events and programmes.
- Decoration of Magh Mela, Alpona for *Halakarshan* and other official programmes of Silpa-Sadana and of the Palli Samgathana Vibhaga.

A platform for interdisciplinary participation

The club brings together students across the three undergraduate disciplines represented in its membership: Textile Design (TD), Ceramic & Glass Design (CGD), and Furniture & Interior Design (FID). The documented membership extends across Semesters II, IV and VI, demonstrating participation across different stages of the undergraduate programme.



A departmental programme with faculty and students participating in a ceremonial and cultural setting.

4. Sharodotsav: Rehearsal, Performance and Collaborative Practice

The photographs document rehearsals for the Sharodotsav programme, in which students of Silpa-Sadana and PSV participated. The rehearsal sessions demonstrate the club's practical role in preparing students for a collective cultural presentation. Students work together through movement exercises, coordinated gestures, group formations and performance practice under guidance. The sessions are informal and participatory, allowing students from different disciplines to learn from one another while building confidence and stage awareness.



Sharodotsav rehearsal: students practising coordinated movement and performance.



Sharodotsav rehearsal: students practising coordinated movement and performance.

On 14th of September 2025, the students of PSV performed the play '*Lonkadohon Pala*', written by Leela Majumder, on the occasion of Sharodotsav 2025. Directed by Partho Chakraborty, who meticulously orchestrated every nook and cranny of the production over a grueling month and a half of preparation, the play was finally brought to life on the stage of Natyaghar.

An immersive and collaborative experience for the students, who got to learn different aspects of a theatrical production and how to execute them collectively with the constant support and encouragement of their professors. Beyond the art itself, the journey taught them to embrace all the hidden responsibilities of putting up a show like the meticulous work that usually goes overlooked when viewing the stage from an audience's perspective.

Even with the demands of their coursework, the students cultivated essential practical skills; from juggling budgets and tackling last-minute emergencies to resolving internal disagreements constructively. The on-stage cast honed their space management, vocal projection, expressive depth and deeply immersing themselves in the spirit of the play during rehearsals. Meanwhile, the backstage crew and music team acted as the backbone of the production, demonstrating coordination, synchronization, and constant alertness to keep everything running seamlessly.



Ultimately, the play was more than just a theatrical success; it was a profound lesson of collaboration and working together towards a shared creative vision.

Observed dimensions of the rehearsal process

- Collective discipline: students rehearse together, respond to cues and maintain group coordination.
- Movement and expression: rehearsals use gesture, posture, rhythm and spatial movement as performance vocabulary.
- Peer learning: students participate as performers as well as collaborators, supporting one another during practice.
- Cross-disciplinary engagement: the activity brings together students from different design disciplines and academic semesters.
- Stage readiness: repeated practice helps students gain confidence and prepare for a public cultural presentation.



Rehearsal moments



Rehearsal moments

Such rehearsal-based engagement reflects the club's larger objective of using performance as a means of developing communication, teamwork and expressive ability-qualities that complement the students' development as creative practitioners.

5. Cultural Programmes, Showcases and Skill Development

Beyond event-specific performances, the club creates a continuing environment for students to practise and present different forms of performance. Its documented structure includes dedicated teams for Song, Dance, Recitation and Drama. This allows students to identify their areas of interest while also encouraging them to work across forms where appropriate.

Music & Song Vocal practice, group singing, musical presentation and participation in cultural programmes.	Dance & Movement Choreography, coordinated movement, rhythm, expression and group performance.
Recitation Poetry and spoken performance, voice modulation, expression and stage communication.	Drama & Theatre Acting, characterisation, group interaction, storytelling and theatrical presentation.





Musical presentation during a departmental cultural programme.

6. Impact and Contribution

The Music & Performance Club contributes to the holistic development of students by creating an active space for artistic expression alongside their design education. Its activities help students develop confidence, communication, collaborative working habits, aesthetic awareness and cultural sensitivity. Regular rehearsals also encourage responsibility, punctuality, discipline and collective problem-solving.

At the institutional level, the club strengthens the cultural life of Silpa-Sadana and supports the successful conduct of departmental programmes. By involving students in the planning and execution of performances, it extends learning beyond the classroom and gives students an opportunity to take ownership of cultural activities.

7. Conclusion and Future Direction



Student participation and cultural engagement at Silpa-Sadana.



Student participation and cultural engagement at Silpa-Sadana.

The Music & Performance Club has emerged as an important platform for integrating creativity, culture and performance into the student experience at Silpa-Sadana. Its work in departmental celebrations, inaugural programmes and cultural events-together with regular rehearsal and team-based practice-provides a sustained avenue for student expression. Going forward, the club can continue to expand workshops, interdisciplinary performances, expert-led masterclasses, student showcases and systematic documentation of performances, in keeping with its stated objectives.

Music & Performance Club, Silpa-Sadana