

AKLF presents
Plug in - a free 3-day music festival
at the grounds of historic
St. Paul's Cathedral

Kolkata, 15th – 17th January:

Plug in is a free 3 day music festival curated by Oxford Bookstores for the eighth edition of its literary festival – Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival - on from Jan 15- Jan 18th in Kolkata.

Bringing together the brightest young musicians of West Bengal to perform in the heart of the city at St Paul's Cathedral Grounds for a free music concert, Plug in will be inaugurated at 7.30 PM shortly after the formal inaugural session of AKLF. Plug in is a tribute to Bob Dylan, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2016.

Jan 15 - No Strings Attached known for their repertoire of music that combines elements of American folk, jazz, country and blues and **Ritornellos** known for their rousing music and easy tunes.

Jan 16 - Underground Authority – countrywide, a rap-rock outfit entertaining and educating the masses about lives and struggles, with the songs from their album Propaganda making waves all over. The band set the fire on stage with numbers of playlist ranging topics from violence to love, from diversity and inclusiveness to revolution and passion.

Jan 17 – Paloma & Adil, famous for their feel-good mix of electro pop songs with smooth vocals and soulful melodies, experimental, soothing electronic soundscapes. The Plug in closed with a solo performance from **Sambit** loved for his mesmerizing and fantastic solo act of rhythm and music, enigmatic stage presence and unparalleled control over rhythm and harmony in his unaccompanied show full of beat boxing, drumming, instrumental harmony and musical magic.

Delighted at the invitation from Oxford Bookstores to create musical evenings at AKLF in tribute to Bob Dylan, **Underground Authority** said, *“Our music, like the theme of AKLF’s 2017 edition, deals with inclusiveness. We aim to bring about real change with our music, and we support AKLF 2017 and together we look towards to a future filled with hope, harmony, tolerance and love! We are extremely excited to be performing at Plug in created as a tribute to Bob Dylan at the prestigious Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival. Bob Dylan has been a defining influence on all of us. His music defined generation after generation with his relevant lyrics and revolutionary music.”*

Dylan has been influential in popular music and culture and much of his most celebrated work dates from the 1960s, when his songs chronicled social unrest. "Not once have I ever had the time to ask myself, "Are my songs literature?". So, I do thank the Swedish Academy (Noble), both for taking the time to consider that very question, and, ultimately, for providing such a wonderful answer”, he said in his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize.

Ritornellos said, *“As a band that plays only original tunes, the connection between literature and music is critical to the songwriting process. So it's great we get to play our tunes to a bunch of people who like reading and listening to good music. Regarding Bob Dylan, the best songwriter on the planet, there's just one thing you need to know- never trust a person who doesn't like Bob*

Dylan's music! We couldn't have asked for a better gig to kickstart the year. Ritornellos' setlist consists of eight tunes the band has been working on, and reworking, for over a year. When Ritaprabha Ray joined the band in early 2016, the songs took on a new shape with his weaving guitar parts that complement the other instruments perfectly. The songs are a mix of old and new tunes written by Ananda Sen and Nicholas Rixon and are characterized by dual harmonies, crunchy guitar licks and a rhythm section that is crisp and unwavering. The Ritornellos is a meeting point for rock n roll and good pop music.” they added.

Paloma from **Adil and Paloma** who performed on the closing day on 17th Jan said, “Performing at AKLF is like my love triangle gaining fruition. I'm a student of literature, I've been in love with it since a child. And music on the other hand is also this eternal love that I rediscovered as an adult. And a lot of my lyrics are actually an outcome of what I have read and felt for example a lot of the content stems from existentialism and I have this whole song on Keats and Fanny Brawne. So performing here is like my two worlds coming together.” The duo immediately seem to get why Plug in is being introduced at AKLF as a tribute to Bob Dylan who was awarded the Noble in literature even though he wasn't a “writer”. **Paloma** said, “When it comes to lyrics Dylan and Cohen are my two favourites. I once heard a story about Dylan being able to write his songs in a few days and how it took almost two years for Leonard to write Hallelujah. And I have always thought about who is the better writer then? And there's obviously no straight answer to this because both their songs involve different feelings. Just because they are prolific troubadours, it makes no sense to compare their work methods. And sometimes I also end up liking this one like from a pop song that probably has 12 na na na nas as it's chorus. But the point isn't any of this at all. It is whatever makes one feel. And that's what influences me the most, I love thinking about how they must've felt being stuck in a song for days and years, or getting a song done in hours even.” **Adil added**, “Dylan was somehow the inspiration as he was the first person I saw who'd sing play guitar and harmonica all at the same time. Mine is just an exaggerated idea of the seed that Dylan planted.”

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Notes to Editors

About AKLF

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival is India's first major literary initiative of the year, India's only literary festival created by a bookstore and Kolkata's first literary festival. AKLF's eighth edition from Jan 15– 18 is woven around conversations to make the world a more inclusive place. Spotlighting Kolkata's unique cultural heritage of inclusiveness, the programme of AKLF 2017 was announced aboard a cruise on the banks of the Ganges. Created by the nearly 100 year old Oxford Bookstore, the Festival programming spans the entire spectrum of inclusion, from women and children to the underprivileged, including a tribute to the late Mahasweta Devi who brought the most marginalized into the fold of literature. The era of Post Truth, where facts are fast losing out to rhetoric, the reality globally, will be discussed by experts; as will be the impact of different media on our reality today. Every evening for three days, AKLF will pay tribute to Nobel Laureate Bob Dylan through poetry and contemporary music at Poetry Café and Plug in, hosted at the festival's main venue – St. Paul's Cathedral grounds – chosen for its welcoming, accessible and inclusive nature. For the first time, Oxford Bookstores will host Oxford Junior Literary Festival (OJLF), a two-day festival to be held on 15th and 16th Jan for the young readers. Renowned children's authors, publishers of children's books, storytelling and creativity will form part of OJLF. This year, we have tied up

with UNICEF@70 to conduct its global short stories campaign titled “Tiny Stories” at OJLF. AKLF 2017 will be held at St Paul’s Cathedral, established in 1847, and Oxford Bookstore, established in 1919. The festival’s closing event will be hosted at St John’s Church, built in 1787. The Festival conversations will also be hosted at Royal Calcutta Turf Club, Tollygunge Club, the campus of iLead & Presidency University, Daga Nikunj and the Harrington Street Arts Centre.

About Oxford Bookstores:

Established in 1919, Oxford Bookstore is the best equipped 'base-camp' for journeys of the mind offering its customers the widest range of outstanding titles and consistently courteous and informed service for close to a century. Today, with stores in major metros, India’s first dedicated Children’s bookstore, Oxford Junior, India’s first of its kind tea boutique, Cha Bar, India’s only literary festival created by a bookstore, Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival, Oxford Bookstore offers booklovers access to the very best in publishing enhanced by a variety of events which salute books, visual & performing arts and celebrate the word. Oxford Bookstore measures its success by the smiles on millions of happy customers that the brand has served over the last nearly 100 years. There are a few treats as sumptuous as a visit to Oxford Bookstore in India. Each time you walk into our iconic store in Kolkata where the brand started in 1919, its charm leaves you wanting for more. Our fleet of happy to help expert booksellers and informed hosts work day and night to bring to customers world class reading experience be it through our books or our fine teas and live by the brand’s motto - Much more than a bookstore – at every Bookstore. For more information, please also log on to: www.oxfordbookstore.com

AKLF 2017 Partners and Associations:

The AKLF 2017 edition has forged several new, prestigious associations, to add to its impressive repertoire of collaborations since the first edition in 2010. We are proud to have as our partners major national and international institutions and corporates such as the Australian Council for the Arts, Alliance Française, Australian High Commission, Instituto Cervantes, Consulate General of Italy, MAKAIAS, Presidency University, Future Hope, UNICEF, The Teacher's Centre, Jaipur Literary Festival, Sahitya Akademi, Development Corporation Limited (DCL), Vivada Cruises, FACES, Open Doors, The Creative Arts, Zoomcar, Art Rickshaw, Times Fibrefill, Aishee, Sienna and several others. A wide cross section of publishers like Niyogi Books, Future, Oxford University Press, Tulika, Duckbill, NBDS The Book Council are also partnering with us. Venue partners include Tollygunge Club, iLead, Harrington Street Art Centre, Alka Jalan Foundation and Royal Calcutta Turf Club. We welcome 93.5 Red FM as our radio partner, Vistara as aviation partner, Typhoo as beverage partner, Kenilworth as hospitality partner, Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals as wellness partner. AKLF is very proud of these associations and hopes to keep growing year on year.

Bios

The Ritornellos: The Ritornellos is a Rock n’ Roll band from Kolkata that has come together based on the rooted love for rock n roll amongst several musicians in the city of joy. Vocalist Ananda Sen, who was earlier with The Supersonics band, along with Vivek Nair started this group. Members of this group comprise of Avinash Chordia as the drummer, Nicholas Rixon and Subhodip Banerjee on backing vocals and guitar respectively and Roheet Mukherjee of Ganesh Talkies on bass duties. The band members are also huge fans of The Beatles, Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones, Mark Knopfler, Jesus and Mary Chain and Joy Division.

No Strings Attached: No Strings Attached is the only bluegrass music project in India. Their repertoire of music combines elements of American folk, jazz, country and blues music. It was started in 2007 by Diptanshu Roy, a mandolin player and Sujoy Chakravarty, a guitarist and songwriter. They came up with the seemingly contradictory band name because they created it with the intention that it was to be a flexible band which was open to everything. The line-up solidified after Nabanita Sarkar and Koustav Dey joined on vocals and guitar respectively. Currently the band is in the process of recording an EP of original songs.

Underground Authority: The only formidable rap-rock outfit from India, Underground Authority (UA) believes in making music to express and not impress. Being one of India's most popular bands, UA strives to speak up for the commoner through their art , highlighting their problems and issues and hopes to inspire every individual to stand up for themselves and for a better tomorrow.

Paloma & Adil: Paloma and Adil is a duo who make experimental electronic mood music with live guitars and pop/jazz vocal melodies. They recently have played at exciting live venues like Tram Tales, Jamsteady, Nerdmeet, and are looking to release their first album. They have garnered a strong fan base already, and their video on Friday Night Originals gathered the most views that the web series had ever received.

Sambit: Sambit Chatterjee is one of the most exciting young drummers in the country. Playing in diverse bands like Bandish Fusion, What Escapes Me, Ganesh Talkies and others, Sambit is also a percussionist, singer, music composer and beatboxer. A MEINL cymbals endorsee, Sambit has always pushed boundaries of his musical talents by being an all-around performer with a impeccable sense of rhythm.

For more information, please contact: