

A STUDY ON BHUPEN HAZARIKA'S SONGS AND ITS IMPACT ON ASSAMESE SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

This paper endeavours to examine the impact of Bhupen Hazarika's song among the Assamese society during different crucial times and also to find out the historical background when the songs were written. Music serves some common functions in most societies even though musical styles and forms vary from culture to culture. Music is an integral cultural component, serving as both a cohesive and perpetuating force. Music also reflects cultural values and temperaments. Society's character and quality of life greatly influence its music, but other factors, e.g. technological level, types of raw materials available for instrument construction, amount of contact with other cultures, and attitudes toward cultural change or continuity, also influence the development of a culture's music.

As a singer, Bhupen Hazarika is known for his wonderfully crisp voice and flawless diction; as a lyricist, Bhupen Da is known for poetic compositions and parables that touch on a wide range of themes---ranging from the erotic to social and political commentary; and as a composer for his use of folk music with a touch of the contemporary. He also participated, first as a child artist, and later as a director, in the nascent Assamese film industry.

This paper seeks to explain and understand the philosophy of Bhupen Hazarika's song among the Assamese society. Bhupen Hazarika's song left an impact into everyone's heart. It is heartening that the time and the voice are now part of the repertoire of unforgettable melodies that together make up the collective musical consciousness of a nation. Actually, we have always been so enamored of the Voice and the totality of the Song that sometimes we tend to forget the astonishing beauty of so many of Bhupen Hazarika's lyrics.

The paper also examines the historical background in which the Bhupen Hazarika's songs were written and composed.

KEYWORDS: Society, Culture, Community, Music, Assamese Music, Assamese Film Industry