

Recording of the week: Rabindranath Tagore's 'Songs of Patriotism'

This week's selection comes from Dr Janet Topp Fargion, Lead Curator of World and Traditional Music.

Born in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was a writer, poet, artist and teacher. He was the first Indian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, in 1913, for his poetry collection *Gitanjali*. Tagore wrote over 2,000 songs during his life, referred to as *Rabindra Sangeet*, in which he expressed his world view commenting on politics, progress and education. This song is taken from an album of patriotic songs, and is sung by Hemanta Mukherjee (1920-1989), popularly known as Hemant Kumar, a respected Indian singer, composer and film producer.

[Nai Nai Bhoy](#)



Tagore's work was hugely influential on European writers and thinkers. A part of his life narrative is highlighted in the [Connecting Stories: Our British Asian Heritage](#) exhibition at the Library of Birmingham in collaboration with the British Library running until 4 November, 2017.

Nai Nai Bhoy is taken from *Songs of Patriotism* – Rabindranath Tagore. Label/catalogue: His Master's Voice ECLP 2280, 1962. BL shelfmark: 1LP0156677

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