



NADI – the river that inspired life and poets

The river has been the very source of life.

From Sufi fakirs in the North to Baul singers in Bengal to Sangam poetry and classical composers in the South – an ocean of poetry has been penned inspired by the River.

NADI seeks to explore the love and longing, the physical changes and the deep philosophy that the river inspired through the centuries-old voices of India's poets.

“Have you also learned that secret from the river; that there is no such thing as time?” That the river is everywhere at the same time, at the source and at the mouth, at the waterfall, at the ferry, at the current, in the ocean and in the mountains, everywhere and that the present only exists for it, not the shadow of the past nor the shadow of the future.”

— Hermann Hesse, Siddhartha

NADI has made an eclectic selection of poems in different languages and musical genres from the thumris of Varanasi, to Tagore's melodies and the Baul renderings of Bengal, to Sangam poetry, the previous centuries Dikshitar, and to modern-day Girish Karnad of the South. Every poem has a different philosophical setting, but all deal with the concept of the River.

These at various compositions are thread together by Rajkumar Bharathi, who has used some traditional tunes and has recomposed others to suit the genre of dance and to attempt a dialogue between the past and the present, between music genres and between languages of this vast nation.

NADI is a common link and we hope that elements like the river, can continue to teach man the usefulness and beauty of nature and our link to it.