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**Title : Morning raga hot spot for New Town**

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New Town has got a new cultural hub. Percussionist Bickram Ghosh has taken the initiative along with New Town School to curate concerts at the school auditorium that will soon be open to public. Apart from live shows, film festivals too will be organized.

“There is a lot of musical talent in this city. This is an attempt to create a platform for the future generation. The New Town area has a substantial population but there's no cultural hub where live performances can be held regularly. Local residents will now enjoy concerts without having to travel long distances,” Ghosh told TOI.

He praised the acoustics of the 250-seater auditorium. “I love the auditorium. I think its one of the best in the city with superb acoustics. I feel it's an important initiative as even in this digital age, live music can never be replaced by any electronic platform,” he added.

For now, audience members are invited, but soon there will ticket shows. “The audience will get quality music performances right in the neighbourhood. While my group Drumscape set the ball rolling on Sunday with a concert, we will host Kumar Mukherjee's Sufiana on January 17. As of now, we're sticking to one show a month, but soon the frequency will increase and workshops would be held as well,” the percussionist explained.

According to Ghosh, the venue will host film festivals in the future as well with filmmaker-actor Arindam Sil spearheading the project. “In the winter, we are doing morning shows, which s a unique experience,” said Ghosh. The school's founder-director Sunil Agarwal added: “The technology we are using is he latest in town. Even the chairs are different. The frame is of aluminium die-cast, which we have mported.”

As for the sound system, Agarwal said: “Whether you sit in the ront or at back, the effect is same. We had screened the movie Avengers' to test if it's functional and effective. We'll be promoting ndian art and the initial run will be free of cost. And as we are a green school, all the auditorium ights are LED, and there is also resh air system along with the airconditioning.”



Bickram Ghosh has plans to start ticket shows at the auditorium soon