



GARUDA'S SONG



A Musical Story of Resilience
during the Khmer Rouge

Cambodia's Golden Age of Soul, Jazz, and Rock and Roll from 1959 to 1975 was one of the world's profound musical renaissances. Yet it almost disappeared before we could hear it. Though most of the musicians of that exceptional generation were killed at the hands of a murderous dictatorship, their music lives on because of the strength of the Cambodian people in the face of genocide.



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Garuda's Song is a musical composition that aims to share the remarkable story of Cambodia's rich and resilient musical culture with the world.

The composition ties together traditional melodies, classics from Cambodia's Golden Age, and classical instruments and sensibility.

Garuda's Song highlights music before, during, and after the Khmer Rouge, a brutal regime, which between 1975 and 1979 killed nearly 3 million Cambodians, including most of the country's musicians.

The goal of composers Alex Biniac-Harris and Ambrose Soehn is to preserve the memory and legacy of those who lost their lives in the pursuit of creative freedom during the genocide using the universal power of music.

Ambrose and Alex were responsible for composing and performing a similar musical composition "Melodies of Auschwitz" which, in January 2015, was performed for camp survivors and international dignitaries at the 70th-anniversary commemoration of Auschwitz's liberation in Krakow, Poland.



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January 23rd 2019 @ Jaya House River Park

Alongside Alex and Ambrose the evening will feature musicians from the new generation of Cambodia and some of the few surviving, pre-Khmer Rouge, musicians for the Golden Age of Cambodia (Notably *Hong Samley* and *So Savoeun*).

In the lead up to the event we will be holding free screenings of the documentary “Don’t Think I’ve Forgotten” with permission from Director *John Pirozzi*. One screening will be at Paul de Brule training school where we will invite students to come and enjoy the film in its khmer language version. We will also hold a free screening of the English version at Footprints Café.

Project Team		Featured Performers
		
Alex Biniarz-Harris Alex is a musician and entrepreneur who co-founded and leads the project along with Ambrose. Alex is responsible for composition, logistics, and performing in Cambodia.	Ambrose Soehn Ambrose is a musician and product manager who co-founded and leads the project along with Alex. Ambrose is responsible for composition, logistics, and performing in Cambodia.	Hong Samley Hong Samley is one of Cambodia's most renowned musicians. An original member of Baksey Cham Krong (BCK), Cambodia's first and most respected rock band, he still pursues music in his home town of Paris and will perform <i>Garuda's Song</i> with electric guitar.
		
Oum Rotanak Oum is the founder of the Cambodian Vintage Music Archive, an organization that archives classic Cambodian rock and roll. He has been instrumental in conducting research, forming musician partnerships, and helping plan the performances in Cambodia.	Sa Fatily Sa is a filmmaker and editor based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She has worked on many important films, including Angelina Jolie's <i>First They Killed My Father</i> . Sa has helped form partnerships, plan event logistics, and will help produce the documentary short film.	So Savoeun So Savoeun is one of Cambodia's best-known vocalists. She was regarded as one of the nation's premiere singers of the 1960s and 1970s. So still performs in her home outside of Paris and will perform <i>Garuda's Song</i> on vocals.