Work Report
Pranav Thakkar

April-November

1. **Targets for the sem:**

   a. **Unify Saaz and Staccato** to create a single music club in IIT Bombay
   b. Introduce and maintain a **choir** comprising singers of all genres, to create a healthy environment for singers
   c. Increase the **number** and **quality of bands** in the institute by shuffling the club calendar, hence having band-centric events like Music Arcade and Battle of the Bands
   d. Introduce a **theme** for Surbahaar, and have more unconventional publicity for the same.
   e. Have **increased workshops and mentoring** for music competitions such as Music Arcade, Goonj, Battle of the Bands
   f. Increase the amount of **recorded original music** in the institute and outsource & publicize the same as much as possible
   g. Make **musical knowledge** (both theory and practical) **more accessible** to people across the institute, through personal interaction or over social media
   h. Boost the club's **online presence** by having more online activity, both through the club's Facebook page and the YouTube channel.

i.   Increase the number and kind of **informal events** happening in the club to facilitate more frequent interaction and catering to a larger crowd.

j.   Upgrade the **SAC music room facilities**, both in terms of infrastructure and aesthetics.

2. Events :

a.   **Backyard Jam:** Executed for the first time, the Music Club, after creating a 35 member team, recorded covers of 4 songs in a professional studio. Videos for the same were shot across the institute in collaboration with **Silverscreen**.   *(April 2017)*

b.   **Rukhsat:** Ensured the successful conduction & publicity of the farewell to seniors (cum council handing over treat) referred to as 'Rukhsat'. **Personalised cards** were prepared for all the passing-out members of the club, as memorabilia. The H4 Music Room was decorated, and a farewell On A Roll was conducted, followed by a get-together. The after-movie made for the event, as part of post publicity, had the **most reach** and **highest clicks/actions** than any other post released in the academic year.   *(April 2017)*

c.   **Summer School of Cult:** Organised classes under this programme for Guitar, Drums, and Western Vocals, each being a 4-week long program.   *(May-June 2017)*

d.   **Cult Not Difficult (AnyBody Can Music)**: Held drums sessions totalling 3 hours, for absolute beginners. The instructor, who was a student of IIT Bombay itself and a member of Symphony, taught ~25 attendees basic drum beats and provided online resources for further reference.   *(June 2017)*

e.   **Pahal 3.0:** Helped in execution of the showcase event for all the summer beginner-level programmes.   *(July 2017)*

f.   **Cult Online:** Participated and publicized the Cult Online Challenge (by changing DP and scheduling rounds of sharing on various forums), thus generating 12+ entries, hence observing a 140% increase in participation from last year.   *(July 2017)*

g.   **PG Cultural Orientation**: Showcased Symphony in a 15 minute slot in the PG orientation, which consisted of a Bollywood medley performance. Set up a lively registration desk with live unplugged music.   *(July 2017)*

h. **UG Cultural Orientation**: Showcased Symphony in a 15 minute slot in the PG orientation, which consisted of a rock band slot. Set up a lively registration desk with several club sophomores participating in publicity. *(August 2017)*

i. **NSO Trials:** Supervised conduction of trials for NSO Guitar and Vocals.
Made a **contingent** from the trials that would perform at Independence Day and the Convocation Ceremony, comprising from freshers as well as seniors *(August 2017)*

j. **Convocation Ceremony:** Helped the contingent prepare the Institute Song, which was sung as part of the Convocation Ceremony on the Convocation Hall stage. *(August 2017)*

k. **Independence Day Performance**: A slot was prepared for Independence Day by aforementioned contingent, consisting of songs from various parts of India. Assisted the NSO Vocals instructor with performance and soundcheck of the same. *(August 2017)*

l. **Band Making Session:** Conducted the Band-Making Session in various locations throughout SAC. The turnout was **120+**, making it the largest Band Making Session in the past 3 years. *(August 2017)*
The event was also re-structured and focus was on feedback instead of the audition, making it more of an interactive session.

m. **Music Introductory Session:** Conducted the introductory session for Symphony: the Music Club. The event featured **4** bands created from the Band Making Session, largest in the past 3 years. The event also showcased The Wreckers, one of IITB's rap groups. *(August 2017)*

n. **'Anjali'-the Gandhi Jayanti tribute performance:** Ensured proper soundcheck, as well as smooth functioning in collaboration with NSO Instructors for the institute's oldest cultural tradition. *(August 2017)*

o. **Unplugged: Two** 'Unplugged' events were conducted: one was post the end-semester examinations in April, while the other was exclusively for freshers in August. The latter was received with a very enthusiastic response from the new entrants.

p. **On A Roll: Two** editions of On A Roll were conducted this semester, to keep up the age-old club tradition of spontaneous jam sessions.

q. **Professional Workshops:** Three workshops have been conducted this semester, the topics being as follows:
   i. Basics of Mixing
   Ii. Music Production and Engineering
   iii. Basics of Composing
   iv. Basics of Lyrics
   v. Vocals Workshop
r. **Trials for Inter IIT Cultural Meet:** Conducted the auditions for the Inter IIT Cultural Meet, and **ensured alumni judging** to avoid bias. Trials were successfully conducted for all music competitions planned.   *(October 2017)*
s. **'Yeh India Ka TIme hai':** Communicated with showcase band Neo Gharana and the sound engineers, and in collaboration with the MHRD, ensured proper execution of event hosted on the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement as part of the Institute Cultural Council.   *(September 2017)*
t. **Music Arcade:** In a collective initiative spanning genres, conducted a band competition only for freshers and sophomores.
   i. Ensured **randomly allocated senior mentoring** to allow hostels to have feedback without breaking the rules of not allowing interference from hostel seniors.
   Ii. Witnessed a participation of **17 bands,** and witnessed the most participation in terms of people participated (as compared to participation in Freshiezza Phase 2 and Sophie Music combined previously) in the past 3 years.
   Iii. Arranged for a detailed feedback session by the judges post competition for all bands.   *(September 2017)*
u. **Acoustic Dusk (Fall Edition)**: Conducted the institute's most informal music night in conjunction with the first round of Battle of the Bands, hence witnessing a plethora of original music and a major chunk of full-fledged band slots.   *(October 2017)*
v. **Battle of the Bands:** The institute's biggest band competition happened in two stages for the first time in 3 years.
   i. Round 1 took in conjunction with Acoustic Dusk, where 6 bands competed. This participation was double than that of the last 2 years. Alumni judges were called to witness the event and to provide feedback, in a first for the music club.
   ii. Round 2 took place as the opening act for Avenues Nite, in conjunction with Mood Indigo, where we had 2 bands take part in

the finals with sessions musicians coming to judge.   *(October 2018)*

w. <u>**Acoustic Dusk (Spring Edition)**</u>: Conducted the institute's most informal music night once again in the spring semester, witnessing 13 slots performing.   *(January 2018)*

x. <u>**Republic Day Celebrations:**</u> Conducted a program to celebrate Republic Day in conjunction with the Cult Buddy for Vocals, to put up a performance by the NSO Vocals students.   *(January 2018)*

y. <u>**Music GC (Goonj):**</u> Conducted the Music GC with an esteemed panel of judges and ensured smooth execution. Headed an **organizing committee** which consisted of ICC and a few enthusiastic freshmen.

z. <u>**Surbahaar:**</u> Conducted Symphony's flagship event

3. In the Pipeline

i) **Backyard Jam:** The videos are still in editing phase. Trailer has been released, and was well received.
The event is currently undergoing restructuring, with ideation in collaboration with the Film and Media Secretary in progress.

ii) **New Issuing System in SAC Music Room:** A new system is about to be implemented following the renovation of the cupboard in SAC.

iii) **Cult Skill Courses:** A deal has been struck with Mumbai Music Institute for the conduction for guitar, keyboard and drums workshops using their infrastructure. Awaiting approval from higher authorities.

v) **Cult Buddy Programme:** Nominations for Cult Buddy have been launched, to help and mentor freshers in various Cultural NSO's, and after an interview, candidates are being assigned to their roles.

vi) **Cult School:** After a successful trial in the summer, Western Vocals was introduced for the first time in Cult School. It had a very good response with 28 registrations obtained. Overall responses were ~85, a very good number compared to l=the past 2 years.

4. In sync with your manifesto

● **Unification of Saaz & Staccato:** Merge the two clubs into a single entity with a brand new name

Status: After coming to a consensus on the name in July, the new name was launched on 28th July and all posts and publicity is under the new name, Symphony. However, Facebook disapproved the renaming of the club page, hence that will tried in the future.

- **Dhwani (Institute Choir Contingent):** Pioneer the formation of the institute's first choir
  Status: Choir is been formed and after a few sessions in April, however has been dormant due to a lack of stage & prep time. Sessions shall be held in the even semester in the form of workshops.
- **Just Music Things:** Create a Facebook Group to provide an online platform for posting resources.
  Status: Group is up and running well. Nearby events and competitions are being posted on this group itself.
- **Surbahaar Theme:** Status: The theme 'A Voyage' was implemented and was furthered in publicity.
- **Unplugged:** as mentioned above.
- **NSO Music:** Proposal of a change in course pattern/instructor
  Status: A proposal for a revised curriculum was submitted, and a proposal to replace the current instructor was taken up, and hence this semester the progress of NSO Guitar is under close scrutiny by the SAC in-charge.
- **Combined Calendar:** Maintain a database of college festivals as well as small-scale and professional gigs
  Status: Currently being implemented through the Just Music Things page, as a Google Calendar was not something everyone would add, and the effectiveness of the same as compared to a Facebook forum was mentioned.
- Propose **soundproofing** of the SAC music room
  Status: The original idea of soundproofing was considered too grand for SAC, however a more cheaper form of soundproofing is being considered.
- **Update storage area for SAC Music Room**
  Status: Cupboard has been renewed.

SAC Room, SAC, IIT Bombay, Powai, Mumbai-400076
Phone No: 0222576896 Email:gseccult@iitb.ac.in