

The Mighty FARmily: How Far We've Come!



Photo by Sachyn Mital

Barbara Goodbody: A Creative; An Explorer

This year, Folk Arts Rajasthan (FAR) experienced the passing of a founding elder. Barbara Goodbody was unwavering in her support from the beginning, contributing to the Merasi cause before FAR existed.

Barbara was wildly generous with her time, her connections, and space. She carried forth the mission of preserving a traditional culture and its ancient art form as we formalized our efforts.

As an exhibiting photographer, an avid collector, and champion of global folk arts, her impactful contributions were widespread and included the Ball Center for Compassion University Southern Maine, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Maine, Peace Jam, the Tibetan School, Maine Wabanaki artists, and Folk Arts Rajasthan.

Many of you, just like Barbara, fuel our success. We reflect and share sweet moments of Merasi education and musical preservation in action.



"It's madness to hate all roses because you got scratched with one thorn,
to give up all dreams because one of them didn't come true,
to give up all attempts because one of them failed.

It's folly to condemn all your friends because one has betrayed you,
to no longer believe in love just because someone was unfaithful or didn't
love you back,

to throw away all your chances to be happy because something went wrong.

There will always be another opportunity, another friend, another love, a new
strength.

For every end, there is always a new beginning...

And now here is my secret, a very simple secret:

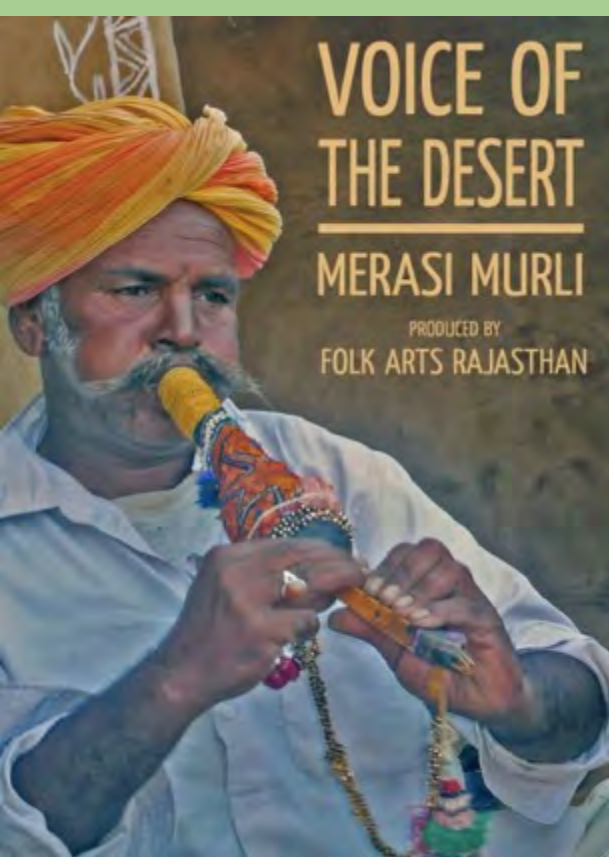
**It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is
invisible to the eye."**

The Little Prince, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry





In 1996, Barbara welcomed artist and musician Sarwar Khan into her home for the first time. Years later, she amplified the Jaisalmer Merasi story with her compelling photo exhibit at UNESCO.



Barbara shared her home for 30 days on all three U.S. tours, building human connections spanning cultures and generations. She sponsored a short documentary featuring Merasi musicians and arranged for its premier at Maine Media Workshops.



एक हाथ कलम पर,
एक हाथ ढोल पर

सरवार खान
निदेशक लोक कला सगर संस्थान

One hand on the pen,
one hand on the drum.

Sarwar Khan
Director of Lok Kala Sagar Sansthan



**Dr. Sarwar Khan,
LKSS Director**

Director of LKSS and troupe leader of MERASI 2016 tour, Dr. Sarwar Khan has dedicated his life fostering education and preserving the Merasi legacy.

Troupe MERASI returned to perform at Maine College of Art, where Sarwar received his honorary doctorate in 2008.

***"Please thank everyone for us.
You gave us dignity and a sense
of our identity."***

– Dr. Sarwar Khan



At the inception of LKSS, the Merasi musical Intangible Cultural Heritage, was endangered and on the brink of disappearing. 30 years later, the legacy is thriving – admired nationally and globally.

Most importantly, during all three tours, the Merasi experienced America along the East Coast, and the freedoms of equality by simply being given a seat at the table to break bread with new friends and hosts. They performed at an impressive 141 venues, receiving standing ovations after each performance.



The Merasi
declare that
Music is
their blood
as it has
been for 39
generations.









One of Barbara's enduring gifts to the children of the community is ***The Merasi Counting Book***, which is used as a text book in the Merasi Learning Centre every single year.

The students, who come from families that owned zero books when Merasi School launched, are thrilled to use workbooks, which were designed exclusively for them and illustrated by Indra Banu; a mother from their community.

The books teach beginning students how to count in both English and Hindi, setting a strong foundation for the first steps in their education.







**Education is the
sunrise that never sets**
First year students posing with their favorite page





Within the Merasi NGO, Lok Kala Sagar Sansthan (LKSS), young leaders are empowered to hone their musical heritage and teach the rising generations while striving for social justice in their world riddled by a caste system.



Sunday Sammelan events unite our students with children from villages for a themed celebration day of music, presentations, and special treats.



हम सब एक परिवार हैं।

बारबरा गुडबडी

We are family.

Barbara Goodbody



The FAR team spans a dedicated network of volunteers, interns, fellows, donors and others like YOU. Starting out with small but mighty mutual goals, efforts grew into the FARmily as we attained them. Now in the years to come, we must look to an independent and sustainable evolution for the Merasi.



Our appreciation for everyone is boundless. In the words of Satar Ali, a Merasi student who joined the first class in 2007 and is now a teacher there, “YOU gave us the gift of a diamond in the form of education, We want to say a million thanks to the extended FARmily.”