

Sri Sri Madhavdev was a great saint, poet, scholar, playwright, and social reformer of Assam. He was born in 1489 at Letekupukhuri in present day Lakhimpur and passed away in 1596. He was the chief disciple of Srinanta Sankardev and played an important role in spreading the Vaishnavite movement known as Ekasarana Dharma. Though he was first a follower of Shaktism, after meeting Sankardev he accepted Vaishnavism and devoted his life to religion and humanity. Madhavdev made remarkable contributions to literature, music, and drama. His most famous work is Naam Ghoxa, a sacred book of devotional verses. He also composed many Borgeet and wrote Ankiya Naat. He helped strengthen the Satra institution and promoted equality, peace, and devotion. He is remembered today as one of the greatest spiritual and cultural icons of Assam.



Jyoti Prasad Agarwala

Jyoti Prasad Agarwala (1903-1951) is one of the most influential figures in the cultural and artistic history of Assam. Popularly known as "Rupkonwar" meaning "Prince of Beauty", he was a multifaceted personality who contributed immensely as a poet, playwright, filmmaker, musician, and freedom fighter. His work played a crucial role in shaping modern Assamese identity and cultural expression. One of his remarkable contributions was in the field of cinema. He is regarded as the father of Assamese cinema because he directed and produced the first Assamese film, *Jyoti*, in 1935. This was a groundbreaking achievement at a time when filmmaking infrastructure in India was still in its vision, Agarwala even established his own film studio, Chitraaban Studio. Despite facing financial difficulties and lack of technical support, he succeeded in creating a film that was not only artistically rich but also culturally significant. His efforts laid the foundation for the Assamese film industry and inspired future generations of filmmakers.



Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad  
Rabha



Bishnu Prasad Rabha was one of the greatest cultural icons of Assam.

He was born on 31 January 1909 in Dhaka and passed away on 20 June 1969. He was a multi-talented personality artist, singer, dancer, actor, writer, poet, freedom fighter, and social reformer. Because of his outstanding contribution to Assamese art and culture, he is lovingly remembered as "Kalaguru," meaning master of arts. He devoted his life to the upliftment of society and became one of the most respected figures of Assam. Bishnu Prasad Rabha made remarkable contributions to Assamese music, literature, theatre, dance, and painting. He composed many famous songs known as Rabha Sangeet, which express patriotism, love, humanity, and social awareness. His popular songs include Buku Hum Hum Kome, Xume Deulome, Bilote Halise Dhuniya, and many other timeless creations. His songs reflected the beauty of Assam, the pain of common people, and the dream of justice and equality.

Besides being a great artist, Bishnu Prasad Rabha was also a revolutionary thinker and political activist. He fought against injustice, inequality, and exploitation and used art as a weapon for social change. He inspired people to love their language, culture, and freedom. Every year, his death anniversary is observed as Rabha Divas in Assam to honor his memory. Even today, he is remembered as a legendary son of Assam whose songs, ideas, and sacrifice continue to inspire generations.



Dr. Bhupen Hazarika

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika (8 September 1926 - 5 November 2011) was one of the greatest musical maestros of Assam, known for his deep, soulful voice and meaningful compositions that touched millions of hearts. He played a key role in bringing Assamese music to the national and international stage by blending folk traditions with modern themes. His songs were simple yet powerful, often focusing on humanity, unity, social justice and the lives of common people, especially reflecting the spirit of the Brahmaputra and Assamese culture. A highly talented artist, he was not only a singer but also a lyricist, composer, poet and filmmaker. His music carried strong messages about equality and human values, which made his work timeless and relatable. Some of his songs became iconic for their emotional depth and cultural significance and many were adapted into different languages. Through his unique style and dedication, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika created a bridge between regional and global music, earning him immense respect and recognition. His legacy continues to inspire generations, making him a true symbol of Assam's musical pride.

Khagen Mahanta

