

Career of Rathin Kisku

1984

- Born 22nd March 1984 at Gopalnagar, a Santal village at District Birbhum, 20 km from Santiniketan. Studied at Bergram High School up to class 9, then dropped out of school.
- Learned Baul songs and began to perform both at Baul festivals and at Santal festivals. He is a presence at many major folk music festivals in West-Bengal, visits to Jharkhand, Orissa and Delhi for performances. From 2004, he studies Hindustani Classical Vocal Music with teachers from Sangeet Bhavan, Santiniketan. He is currently with Prof. Dilip Karmakar.

2004

- Rathin Kisku passed his Madhyamik Examination (class 10) as an external student.

2005

- He spent one month in Germany, performing in major cities in programmes conducted by Martin Kämpchen.
- Guest appearances on *Television*: E-TV for a programme on Rabindranath Tagore; Star Ananda at Poush Mela; Doordarshan for a programme on Santiniketan; ARTE (France/Germany) for a programme on India.
- Guest appearances on *Radio*: Akash Bani Kolkata for their Santiniketan programme; on Swiss radio DRS 2 for a programme by Martin Kämpchen.

2006

- In January, he was part of a Santal cultural team performing at the National Folk Festival in Delhi.

2007

- In January, a CD of Santali songs „Santal Songs of Santiniketan“ was released by the Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adibasi Trust. Rathin Kisku is the principal singer.
- In August, his first commercial CD was launched at Max Mueller Bhavan (Goethe-Institut) Kolkata. „Pran bhore gai“ has Bengali folk songs (Baul and Bhakti Geeti) on its programme and is produced by Saregama, Kolkata.
- In October, first concert appearance in Dhaka in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut. One concert together with Bangladeshi singer Anusheh, and a second concert of Santal songs with a group from Birbhum and another group from Bangladesh.

2008

- In January, concert at Allahabad Music College.
- On 5th May at Jamshedpur, the All-India Santal Film Academy Award.
- From 12 July to 30 August, Concert Tour through Germany and Austria (together with a team of Santal singers); performance on “Introduction to an Indian Village” with Santal and Baul songs at schools and for adult groups in 25 towns and cities (including Berlin, Frankfurt, Dresden, Leipzig, Göttingen, Marburg, Salzburg, Vienna).
- On 2nd September, Lal Sukra Award by the West-Bengal Government at Nandan, Calcutta.

2009

- Launch of two new CDs: (a) “Baha”, Traditional Santhali Video Album (Kolkata); (b) “Money Mena Hape re Hape”, Modern Santhali Video Album (Dumka/Jharkhand)
- The following are the important concerts of this year: (a) at Kolkata National Club, Kolkata; (b) at Kolkata Fashion Show, Park Hotel (Kolkata); (c) at Kolkata Police Force, Royal Club (Salt Lake, Kolkata); (d) at Delhi Children’s Book Fair (Kali Mandir, New Delhi).

Rathin Kisku received the following awards in **2009** and **2010**:

- (a) Baul Competition at Birbhum District, West Bengal (Suri); (b) All India Santali Bhasa and Sahitya Conference, organized by Sidu Kanu University (Dumka/Jharkhand); (c) Santali Filmfair at Sudukanu Auditorium (Dumka/Jharkhand), received by the then Chief Minister.

2011

- Food Festival “Flavour of Bengal” by Big Bazar concert participation in Kolkata.

(Juli 2011)