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| 1) Gurdit Singh: Courage in the Face of Opposition | 9:20 |
| 2) Crossing the Pacific: The Hopes of 376 Passengers | 5:52 |
| 3) Shore Committee: Bonds of Ancestral Kinship | 8:14 |
| 4) J. Edward Bird: Reflections on Justice | 6:20 |
| 5) Munshi Singh: Trial for a Sanguine Tomorrow | 8:41 |
| 6) Debris from the Sky: Confront with the Tools at Hand | 9:49 |
| 7) Hunger and Despair in the Harbour (<i>trad/arr. N Dhillon</i>) | 4:46 |
| 8) British Clash at Budge Budge (<i>trad/arr. N Dhillon</i>) | 7:54 |
| 9) Reconciliation: Evoke the Fallen and Persevere | 7:56 |

Total Time 68:58

Neelamjit Dhillon – Alto Saxophone (1,4,6,8,9),
Bansuri (2,5,7,9), Tabla (3,6)

Chris Gestrin – Piano
André Lachance – Double Bass
Dan Gaucher – Drumset

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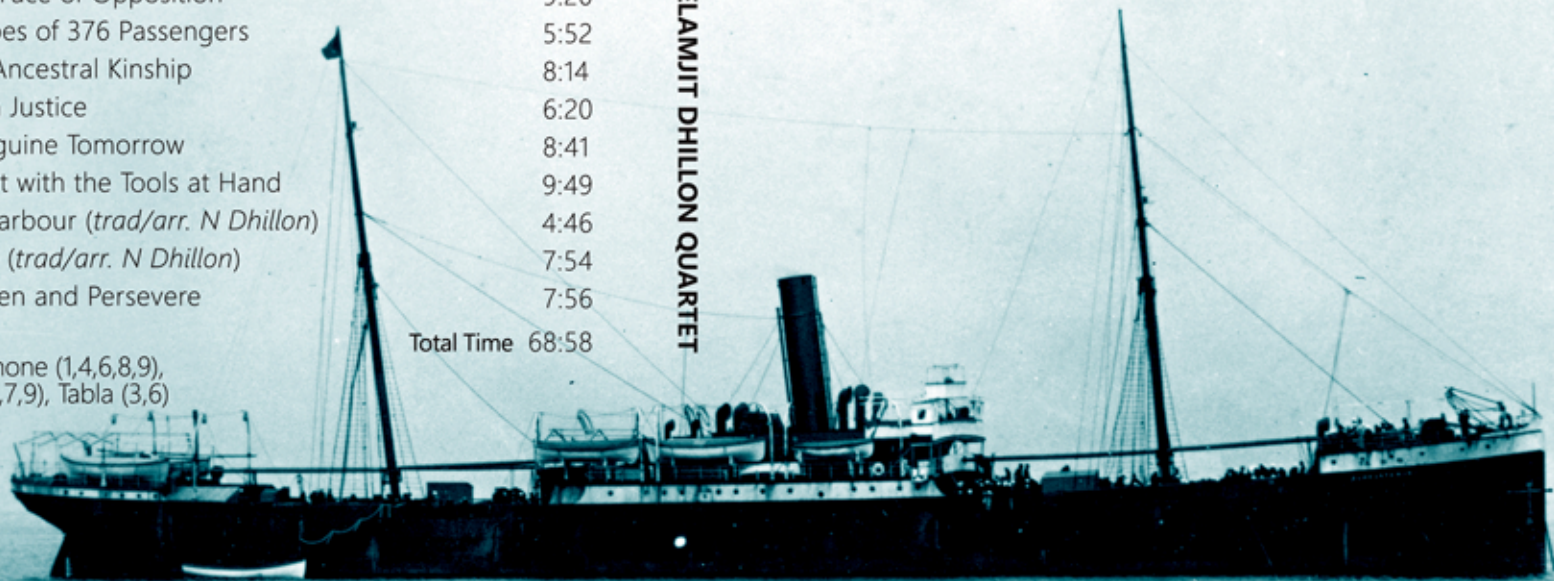
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KOMAGATA MARU

NEELAMJIT DHILLON QUARTET
**KOMAGATA
MARU**

NEELAMJIT DHILLON QUARTET





1) Gurdit Singh: Courage in the Face of Opposition

Gurdit Singh was the visionary behind chartering a Japanese ship and traveling to Canada in opposition of the racist laws preventing Indian immigration. This composition explores the dualities of courage and doubt that he confronted in order to face injustice.

2) Crossing the Pacific: The Hopes of 376 Passengers

This composition examines the promising and optimistic outlook of the passengers as they began their journey from Hong Kong and set out across the Pacific Ocean. The piece depicts the romance of travel, the solemn devotion to the trip, and the hope of a new life in Canada.

3) Shore Committee: Bonds of Ancestral Kinship

As the Komagata Maru was detained in Vancouver Harbour, a committee formed on shore to advocate for the ship and its passengers. The committee dealt with numerous obstacles including multiple deceptions from the government and navigating legal obstructions.

4) J. Edward Bird: Reflections on Justice

J. Edward Bird was the only lawyer willing to take the case of the Komagata Maru before the government but was ultimately unsuccessful in overturning the law. He was sent death threats and left Vancouver before the end of the trial for his own safety. The composition depicts the beauty of Bird's purpose and the sadness of his defeat.

5) Munshi Singh: Trial for a Sanguine Tomorrow

With a glimmer of hope, passenger Munshi Singh was taken to the B.C Court of Appeal for a trial on behalf of the Komagata Maru passengers. It was a feeble attempt at transparency by the government and was a formality rather than a true endeavour of justice. "Sanguine" is defined as "hope and optimism," but it also has the double meaning of a blood-red colour.

6) Debris from the Sky: Confront with the Tools at Hand

Immigration officials and police, aboard a tugboat, came to usher the Komagata Maru out of Vancouver Harbour. The enraged passengers on board hurled anything they could get their hands on (coal, bricks, iron rods, etc.) and managed to fight the tugboat off. It was a temporary valiant victory that delayed their deportation, if only for five days.

7) Hunger and Despair in the Harbour

As the passengers were confined on board in Vancouver Harbour for two months, their supplies diminished and they were driven to the brink of dying from starvation and thirst. The hopes of the passengers, who gave everything up to come to Canada, faded as they realized that the possibility of being sent back to India had become a reality.

8) British Clash at Budge Budge

After two months at sea crossing back to India, British officers sought to detain the passengers they feared would fuel the rising anti-British sentiment. A riot ensued in which nearly two dozen passengers suffered bullet wounds, twenty-two were killed, and others escaped or were arrested. The piece is an adaptation of Sikh hymns and depicts the ensuing riot.

9) Reconciliation: Evoke the Fallen and Persevere

Coming to terms with the legacy of the Komagata Maru, we realize the sacrifices that others have endured in the pursuit of justice. It is in this spirit that we continue to fight for an ethical world. Justice may not be obtained in this life in the way we might hope but those efforts make it possible for future generations to continue the struggle and one day live in an equitable world.

Produced, recorded & mixed by **Chris Gestrin** at Public Alley 421 Studio
Mastered by **Graeme Brown** at Zen Mastering
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This recording marks the centenary of the Komagata Maru Incident of 1914, when a ship carrying 376 passengers from India came to Canada in defiance of the Continuous Journey Regulation that was enacted specifically to prevent their immigration. The music, which combines the languages of Indian classical and jazz, depicts specific events and examines them from the psychological perspectives of those involved.

Although society has made significant strides in becoming more inclusive in the past hundred years, xenophobia toward marginalized communities still occurs. With this humble reflection, may we seek to reconcile our past with the hope of creating a more equitable and just future for all.

— Neelamjit Dhillon



NEELAMJIT DHILLON QUARTET

KOMAGATA MARU

MUCH LOVE & APPRECIATION:

To Ustad Zakir Hussain, to whom I am forever indebted for the constant inspiration and guidance that has shaped the musician I am and the human being I aspire to be.

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To those who fight for justice.