

HAPPY  
Makar  
Sankranti



## Makar Sankranti – January 14, 2022

Makar Sankranti is a Hindu festival celebrated throughout India marking the beginning of the spring harvest and commemorating the winter solstice. The date of the festival revolves around the solar calendar, with the celebration landing on the day the Sun moves into the house of *Makara* (Capricorn). This year the festival falls on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Celebrated throughout India, the festival has many names. Lohri is celebrated in the northwestern state of Punjab, Makar Sankranti is celebrated in northern and central India, and Pongal is celebrated in the southern Indian state Tamil Nadu. Activities and rituals for Makar Sankranti include decorating homes with rangolis, flying kites, and offering special food items to the Surya or Sun god.

Learn more about the festival, its traditions, and ways to celebrate by visiting these resources!

- [Hindu American Foundation – Winter Solstice](#)
- [Makar Sankranti – Festival Facts](#)
- [Let's Make a Kite! | Science Project for Kids](#)
- [Rangoli Art Lesson Plan](#)
- [10 Easy Makar Sankranti Recipes](#)

Explore Indian-American Composers! Here are just a few composers and some of their works. Encourage your students to choose an Indian-American composer to learn more about and listen to their music. Have students share a piece by the composer they researched!



### **Reena Esmail (1983)**

- [Testament \(from Vishwas\)](#) (2017)
  - Testament is the final movement of a three part work for bharatanatyam (Indian classical) dancer and orchestra.
- [Concerto for You](#) (2019)
  - Written for solo violin and youth string orchestra.



## Shruthi Rajasekar (1996)

- *Son of Pandu* (2018)
- *Searching for Sanctuary* (2018)



## Asha Srinivasan (1980)

- *Svara-lila* (2012)
  - The title, composed of two Sanskrit words, “svara” meaning musical note and “lila” loosely meaning play, refers to methods of manipulation of an 8-note pitch collection, which is derived from a conflation of two closely related Indian modes (ragas).



## Martin Luther King Day – January 17, 2022

Martin Luther King Day is observed on the third Monday of January every year to celebrate and honor the life of this famous civil rights leader. The call for this national holiday was made almost immediately after King’s death. While several states and cities would make Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, January 15, a holiday as early as 1970, it wasn’t until 1983 that official legislation was passed making the third Monday in January a federal holiday.

*Our only hope today lies in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go out into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism, and militarism...*

*Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter, but beautiful, struggle for a new world.*

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The theme and call to action for the 2022 Observance of Martin Luther King Day is “It Starts with Me: Shifting Priorities to Create the Beloved Community.” Here are some resources to explore as we work together to create a world where injustice ceases and love prevails.

- [Classroom Resources for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day](#) – National Education Association
- [The Best of Our Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Resources](#) – Learning for Justice
- [Teaching King Beyond “I have a dream.”](#) – Civil Rights Teaching

During Martin Luther King Jr.’s time as a civil leader, protest songs and spirituals played an integral part in the marches and protests occurring across the nation. Music itself has played a powerful role in healing, uplifting, honoring, and motivating people throughout the ages.

- Here’s a lesson plan on [Protest Songs: A Musical Introduction](#) from Smithsonian Folkways.
- Listen to [Epitaph for a Man Who Dreamed](#) by [Adolphus Hailstork](#), written in 1979 in honor of the work and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Have students discuss the ways the music conveys an homage to the civil rights leader.
- Explore music of the Civil Rights Movement and how it was used as an instrument of social activism. Here is an episode from The Folkways Collection Podcast – [Music and the Winds of Change: The Civil Rights Movement](#).

Experience and support local Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrations. “Remember-Celebrate-Act. A day On, Not a Day Off.”

- [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration](#) – Marcus Performing Arts Center
  - The city-wide celebration will be held on January 17, 2022 at the Marcus Performing Arts Center. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration programming highlights the youth in our community who every year interpret Dr. King’s words through art, speech, and writing contests.
- [25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration – YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee](#)
  - [In-person event at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino Event Center and exclusive virtual offering on Monday, January 17.](#)
- [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center](#)
  - [Every January we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an event of music, dance and more, inside the King Center auditorium.](#)
- [MLK Day of Service - AmeriCorps](#)
  - MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. Make time to volunteer for MLK Day of Service to engage with your community while honoring Dr. King’s legacy.