

***** standard header *****

JUNE 7, 2008 - PROGRAM REVIEWS

Shubhendra Rao on Sitar, Saskia Rao-De Haas on Cello and Biplab Bhattachary on Tabla

Srimati Bharti Chokshi and the Association of Performing Arts of India (APAI) have again provided an important service to the community by bringing the highest quality Indian classical music to South Florida, both in an entertainment and educational context. The husband and wife team of Shubhendra Rao on sitar and Saskia Rao-De Haas on cello (accompanied on tabla by Biplab Bhattacharya) offered a comprehensive weekend program, beginning on Friday, June 6, 2008, with an afternoon radio performance at 91.3 WLRN-FM's Arts Beat show with Ed Bell, which was well attended by an invited studio audience, and enjoyed by radio listeners both locally and worldwide on the Internet. Later that evening, APAI arranged for the performers to give a special lecture/demonstration at the Broward County Library that was free and open to the public, allowing the musicians to speak extensively to the audience and take questions, with author Peter Lavezzoli as moderator. The following evening on Saturday, June 7, the proper concert took place, again in the Library Auditorium, with a high turnout of listeners who were enthralled by the exquisite interactions between Shubhendra's sitar and Saskia's cello. As a couple, Shubhendra and Saskia are the living embodiment of "East Meets West." In every sense, the entire weekend of events was a success, thanks to the careful planning and commitment of Bharti and APAI, who made such a well-rounded set of programs possible.

Peter Lavezzoli, author of "The Dawn of Indian Music in the West."

The concert was energetically sublime. It was Indian music that intertwined with the West in a format that gives credit to the origin of the sounds in India. It was marvelous to see the harmonious union of the old and the new. The drummer surpassed all expectations.

Margaret Mitchell Armand, Broward Cultural Affairs Council Member

The quality of the music was exceptional. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I didn't expect the cello and the sitar to blend so harmoniously and complement each other so well. The tabla player exhibited a tremendous amount of energy that was translated in amazing rhythmic sound that really resonated through your whole body.

Karen Smith, Broward County Cultural Division

Thank you for making last night's remarkable performance.... happen--- and for your 10 stellar years of contributions to our local community's cultural enrichment!! We honor your hard work!

I would very much appreciate your sending me some more information on the upcoming vocal workshop of which you spoke last night. I am MOST interested in attending!!

Again--- Many Many thanks and much appreciation for you important and glorious contributions to our South Florida community!

Diana Hammerstein

Thank you so much for your ten years of enduring support and presentation of Indian Classical music. I congratulate you and everyone involved in APAI for all the work involved in presenting concerts. I'm looking forward to the next ten years of uplifting music.

Fernando Subirats

Extraordinary concert. Shubhendra Rao on Sitar, Saskia Rao De-Haas on Cello and Biplab Bhattacharya on tabla are truly extraordinary musicians and individuals. The musical program was engaging, accessible, and excellent. The music was world class and I believe a new benchmark in the classical Sitar tradition. The APAI is truly an extraordinary organization and a stellar addition to the cultural fabric of South Florida. Happy tenth year anniversary and thank you for the marvelous musical experience.

Frank May

Sitar,Cello and Tabla concert featuring Shubhendra Rao on Sitar, Saskia Rao De-Haas on Cello and Biplab Bhattacharya on tabla. – This was an excellent performance. The work done by the volunteers was commendable in all respects. I realize an enormous amount of time and efforts have to be put into to put a show together. Please keep up the work and keep bringing shows of various kinds.

Saransukh (Sukhi)

The program was excellent! Thanks for all you do and your efforts!

Mohini

This is one of the highest quality musical events i have been to this year-a flawless combination of tradition and innovation. please give me the Delhi contact for these musicians.

Sally Sidner

Our Appreciation



Special thanks to the following for their donations to the Association of Performing Arts of India Legacy Fund at the Florida Atlantic University:

- Sanjiv Anand
- Dr. Manohar and Mohini Athavale
- Kashyap & Meena Bakhai
- Randall Bernsen
- Akshay Chokshi
- Dr. Deenbandhu & Bharti Chokshi
- Nandan Choksi
- Apurva & Jyoti Desai
- Robert Feldman
- Viral Gandhi
- Diana Hammerstein
- Indrani & Rajiv Johri
- Mr. Narinder and Billo Jolly
- Charumathi Kannan
- Kwan Lowe
- Mark Nerenhausen, CEO of Hennepin Theatre Trust, Minneapolis MN
- Scott Miller
- Dr. Naresh & Hina Pathak
- Mansi & Amol Patel
- Pragna Patel
- Dr. Vinod & Ranjan Patel
- Drs. Subhash and Vasanti Puranik
- Mrs. Geetha & Dr. Dronnadula Reddy
- Drs. Varsha & Kishore Saraf
- Dr. Haruvu & Geetha Sheshadri
- Mr. Daljeet and Purneet Singh
- Feroza Sircar
- Mr. Vipin Tolat
- Gail Vorsas

ASSOCIATION OF PERFORMING ARTS OF INDIA

www. apaiart.com

apaiart@comcast.net

(954) 885-1466