

Shri Indro-Roy Chowdhuri and Gourisankar

Post-concert review of Sitar and Tabla Concert on Sunday, April 14-2024
by **Shuchita Rao: Ethnomusicologist and Educator**

US born sitarist Indrajit Roy Chowdhury enthralled a packed audience in South Florida with a soulful North Indian classical performance this afternoon. He was accompanied by Shri Gourisankar on the tabla. The concert was presented by non-profit APAI in collaboration with the Broward College. Funding for this program was provided in part by Broward County.

The young artist opened with a brief but powerful talk on how Hindustani classical music has specific ragas that can be played at different times of the day as well as different seasons and also mentioned references in Vedic scriptures about the power of music to heal the human body. He began with a meditative Dhrupad ang alaap, a brisk jod and jhaala in Raga Brindaavani Saarang.

Aesthetically pleasing melodic movements in three octaves with rests on Khadaj, Pancham and Nishaad, beautiful meend work from Shadaj to komal nishaad in descending movements, a wonderful balance between slow and controlled delineation of musical notes and impeccable quick taans established a solid foundation for the raga rendition. A short composition in ektaal was followed by a firozekhani gat in teentaal that showed fine balance between tantrakaari and gaayaki styles of presentation. The artist remembered his Guru, Pandit Subroto Roy-Chowdhury and educated the audience about Firozekhaani gat during the performance.

The artist concluded with a brilliant Palas-Kaafi (combination of Bhimpalasi and Kafi ragas) rendition set to 14 beat cycle Deepchandi taal. Memories of Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and Pandit Ravi Shankar came to the mind. Their legacy lives on, as was evidenced by today's music program.

Both artists, Shri Indrajit Roy-Chowdhury and Shri Gourisankar succeeded very well in creating a delightful ambience and received a standing ovation. Kudos to the artists and to APAI for a successful concert.