

September 30th Sitar and Tabla by Pt.Krishna Mohan Bhatt and Gourisankar Karmakar

Post- Concert Review by Shuchita Rao

On Saturday, September 30, South Florida based non-profit Association of Performing Arts of India (APAI) hosted their annual Fall concert at the Florida Atlantic University theatre, featuring Sitar maestro Pandit Krishna Mohan Bhatt on the Sitar and Pandit Gourisankar Karmakar on the Tabla.

Professor James Cunningham welcomed the audience and introduced the artists. Pandit Bhatt played an evocative Alap, Jod and Jhala in Raga Saraswati dedicating it to the revered Goddess of knowledge, wisdom and the arts. The tuneful development of the raga in three octaves judiciously ornamented with glide(meend) and oscillation(gamak) created a hypnotic effect. Alap, Jod and Jhaala was followed by two compositions in 16 beat cycle.

Next, Pandit Bhatt chose to play melodious raga Charukesi and it was a heart touching rendition. He concluded with a short presentation of Gandhiji's favorite bhajan " Vaishnav Jana To". Pandit Karmakar provided excellent support on the tabla throughout the evening. There were many moments of "layakari" that excited the audience.

It was a wholesome concert as it combined elements of melody, rhythm, emotional expression and serenity very well.