

'Sangeet Ankur' Celebrated young talents

MILPITAS

Sangeet Dhvani's Chapter for youth, "Sangeet Ankur" that promotes Indian classical music among youth based on the Guru-shishya parampara, was held on July 6th 2013 at the Milpitas Library Auditorium, wherein 20 youth vocalists and instrumentalists showcased their talent.

The event attracted over 180 music lovers. Students of several renowned music teachers around bay area participated in this event. The young talent in the age group of 8-16 years performed marvelously in the event.

The audience was also very enthusiastic. They inspired and appreciated the youths participating in the event.

"Sangeet Ankur" in Hindi or Sanskrit language means "Sprouts of Music" with young talents who are the torchbearers for carrying forward the rich music heritage of India coming from Vedic times. Sangeet Ankur focuses mainly on promoting Hindustani as well as Carnatic Classical Music, the age-old genres of India.

The event started with Veena recital by talented Geeta Shankar and Shubha Jagannatha, and was well supported by young Varun Viswanath on Mridangam. Their scintillating veena performance of a Varnam in raag Bowli and a Thillana on raag Brindavani set the event with a brilliant impact and was amaz-



Participants in the SangeetAnkur event



ing. This was followed by beautiful vocal renditions of Raag Ahir Bhairav by Aparna Thyagarajan, raag Kirwani and Nat Malhar by Sarathy Garimella, and Raag Bhimpalasi by Amit Rao. It was exciting to listen to these young talented artists who could recite beautiful yet difficult ragas such as Malkauns, Madhuwanti, Jaunpuri, Jog and Tilak Kamod with great ease and expertise.

Among the other instrumentalists that made the ambience serene and calm with

their performances were: Rashabh Sabu on flute, the youngest Ishita Patel (9 yrs), Krithi and Rohan Koodl, and Indraneel Tambe on Violin, and Akshaya Ramakrishnan on Key board. Very young Aditya Munshi and Venugopal Chillal pleased the crowd with their cute fingers on their tabla playing relentlessly giving a brilliant solo performance on Teen taal.

Mrs. Chhandoshi Kulkarni and the young upcoming and talented vocalist, Tanisha Joshi, ably emceed the event. Tanisha also shared

her views about Sangeet Ankur's importance and the role it plays to encourage and inspire the youth artists by showcasing their talents.

Attractive prizes were awarded to all participants appreciating their skills in performing the Classical Raags, so admirably and were handed over by Mr. Satish Gadagkar, a leading Violinist who also is incidentally the Honorary Music Advisor of Sangeet Dhvani. Proposing Vote of thanks, he congratulated the organizers for conducting the event.

There was no forewarning, says Asiana's Indian survivor



Vedpal Singh, survivor of the Asiana Airlines at San Francisco International Airport

SAN FRANCISCO

Vedpal Singh, an Indian who was on board the ill-fated flight of South Korea's Asiana Airlines July 6 and miraculously survived along with his family, said that there was no forewarning before the plane crashed here.

"It's miraculous we survived," he said, according to a PTI report, recalling his ordeal when the plane with 307 people on board hit the runway and was engulfed by flames while landing at San Francisco International Airport.

"We knew something was horribly wrong," he said. But there was no forewarning from the pilot or any crew members before the flight from Seoul to San Francisco touched down hard, a visibly shaken Singh said.

He said the plane went silent before people tried to get out any way they could, recalling his escape from the burned-out wreckage of the Boeing 777.

Singh, who was sitting in the middle of the aircraft and survived the crash with his family, suffered a fractured collarbone and

other minor injuries.

His 15-year-old son said luggage fell on passengers overhead as the entire incident lasted about 10 seconds.

"It approached the runway and the moment it touched it, there was a loud bang and we knew that something had gone wrong," Singh told reporters.

The fire started as passengers were evacuating via the plane's emergency chute, Singh said.

Estimates suggests that at least two people were killed and over 180 injured when Asiana Airlines flight OZ214 hit the runway and was engulfed by flames while landing at San Francisco International Airport.

According to a Reuters report, Singh lives in South Korea and had taken the flight for a vacation to California. He said that his son was fine but he had not yet been reunited with his wife.

"Your instincts take over. You don't know what's going on," said Singh, who had his arm in a sling as he walked through the airport's international terminal and told reporters he had suffered a fractured collarbone.

"I'm very, very thankful to God," he added.

Sai Parivaar celebrates its 3rd Anniversary

MILPITAS

The Shirdi Sai Parivaar (SSP) celebrated its third anniversary. On this day in 2010, SSP moved to this permanent facility in Milpitas and performed Pranaprathista to Baba. Ever since, Shirdi Sai Parivaar has been constantly growing and the services offered by the Shirdi Sai Parivaar to the community and those in need have been expanding.

The primary mission of SSP is to spread the teachings of Shirdi Sai Baba by engaging in community and charitable activities and conducting spiritual and educational for all.

On this auspicious occasion, as part of the anniversary celebrations, the Shirdi Sai Center was open all day on Thursday June 20. Devotees came in large numbers from June 20 to June 23 to seek his blessings and got an opportunity to climb the main podium to touch Baba's feet.

This is a tradition that SSP has been following every year as part of the anniversary celebrations. On June 22, several religious and spiritual activities were conducted. Following the morning (Kakad) arati, devotees participated in the Ganapathi puja, Punyavachana, Ankuraarpana, Mandapa Aradhana, and homam. About 108 families participated in the Kalasha abhishekam to Shirdi Sai Baba. The morning celebrations were concluded with Poorna Ahuti and Mangala arati.

Devotees were overjoyed to be able to perform the Kalasha Abhishekam for Shirdi Sai Baba.

After offering the afternoon (Madhyan) arati to Baba, devotees enjoyed an elaborate lunch as prasadam that was first offered to Baba. The anniversary celebrations continued in the afternoon with vocal recital, Bharat Natyam and Telugu skit performances by children from our very own local Bay Area community. Finally, in the evening, devotees sang the glory of Shirdi Sai Baba and concluded the evening with an arati to Baba.



The entire activities, including procuring the puja related items, preparing prasadam, clean up before and after the event, was coordinated and performed by the dedicated volunteers of SSP. Shirdi Sai Center is the first temple in the entire West Coast that is exclusively dedicated to Shirdi Sai Baba and where all the activities at the center are managed by volunteers.

SSP is a non-profit organization that thrives on the dedicated and selfless services provided by the 400 plus volunteers who go an extra mile to ensure that all activities are performed as per the schedule.

SSP truly embodies the concept of Parivaar (family) where all devotees are treated equally and everyone is welcome irrespective of caste, creed or religion to participate in any activities.