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Sunday 20 February 2011

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CULTURAL COMBO

Music knows no boundaries

DHNS

Bangaloreans are well-acquainted with the idea of fusion music.



With so many instruments and styles of music present all over the world, it is always a delight to see artistes come up with something new. This was the case, when the Indo-German Cultural Society organised a fusion music concert at the UB City Amphi Theatre. The event was also supported by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations. The artistes performing were from the Spinifex Orchestra, a Dutch jazz ensemble and Suma Sudhindra with a veena ensemble. The amphi theatre was choc-o-bloc with people as everyone scamped to find the right spot for themselves. The crowd included old people as well as children from different backgrounds, all of whom were there for the music.

The evening started with a performance by Suma Sudhindra, a skilled veena player, who has also created Taringini Veena. She was joined by B C Manjunath on the mridangam. "I would be doing a classical piece before the Spinifex Orchestra goes ahead and performs its compositions," said Suma. The first composition was a varnam in 5 speeds, which Suma performed beautifully with the beats on the mridangam giving the music a powerful sound. The performance ended with a thundering applause after which the audience was introduced to the Spinifex Orchestra.

The ensemble greeted the crowd in Dutch. "We are really happy to be performing here today and would be performing an original composition before you all," said one of the members.

The group started the music on a slow beat and was soon joined by the drummer who gave the music a sharp tinge. The sound of the saxophone was mesmerising and the experience was enhanced under the open sky.

The first piece was followed by a wonderful jugalbandi of the artistes on the mridangam and drums, with each of them catching everyone's attention with the fast play of their hands. The performance started out slow with each one following the other before both of them started playing together for a long duration, making everyone wait breathlessly for the grand finale. The next song was Monjibero, a slow jazz number where the sounds of the instruments blended together displaying the unique nature of the musical form. This was followed by a fusion recital, where the Spinifex Orchestra and Suma performed together, bringing out two very different kinds of musical forms. This depicted that music truly knows no boundaries.

"My son was not keen on coming to the concert initially, but he enjoyed the first performance so much that he stayed for the entire concert," said Aravind, who attended the performance with his family.

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63/7 (21.3 Ovs)

R Patel 14(20)

J Oram* 1.3-1-1-2

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Produced by Sandesh Nagaraj and directed by S Mahender, Veerabahu is one of the highly expected movies of the year.

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