

CLASSICAL EVENING

Enchanting medley of dance and music

It was a classic amalgamation of dance and music when Tabla Academy of Ajrada Gharana presented a soulful evening with music and dance by seven renowned artistes at 7 Essence, at the Indian Habitat Centre, recently. The evening witnessed classical music and dance performance by renowned musicians like Rupak Kulkarni on flute, Akram Khan on tabla, Murad Ali Khan on sarangi, Fateh Ali Khan on sitar, Madhu Shankar presented kathak, Nupur Shankar on vocal and narrator and Shuheb Hasan on vocal and harmonium.

A very different concept of its own, the event captivated the interest of audience, all thanks to the poetic narration by Nupur Shankar.

Speaking to *Metrolife* after the event, sarangi virtuoso Murad Ali Khan said, "It was the first time we were part of something like this. We had solo performances and even *jugalbandis*, which were thoroughly loved by the audience. Each performance was enhanced even more with the



VIRTUOSO Murad Ali Khan

introduction about the different instruments by the narrator. I had my *jugalbandi* performance with Fateh Ali Khan." Fateh Ali Khan is a well-known name in the world of Indian classical music. He has taken his music to all corners of the world and has even performed with international pop singer Lady Gaga and Yoko Ono, great singer and wife of Beatles star late John Lennon. Khan is a sitar player who weaves magic with his strings.

The audience was also completely entranced by the

beautiful kathak performance of Mahua Shankar. The artiste captivated the hearts of the assembled gathering and she was ably supported by a sitarist and a sarangi player.

"I started my solo performance with invocation, *maaro pranam*, then a technical dance item showing my footwork. I also performed on a *sufiana thumri* and *teen taal*, which was a rhythmic composition."

Prominent faces of the music fraternity like Ustad Hashmat Ali Khan, tabla maestro of Delhi Ajrada *gharana*, Ustad Ghulam Sabir Khan, sarangi maestro of Muradabad *gharana*, Manjiri Sinha, senior dance and music critic of Delhi, Reeta Ganguly, classical singer, to name a few, were present at the event.

7 Essence was a platform where seven different artistes came together to spread the knowledge and 'essence' of Indian classical music. A truly enthralling evening, the event had something special for everyone.

Neha Das



EXPRESSIVE EYES Mahua Shankar performs Kathak at the show, 7 Essence.