

Sur Sandhya

The Classical Sitar Concert

6th March 2004

Stichting Asha Eindhoven
<http://www.ashanet.org/eindhoven>

A thundering applause from the audience summed up the atmosphere as the curtains were being drawn down for the Indian Classical Sitar concert **Sur Sandhya**. Asha members in the "CKE Concertzaal" hall were convinced that it was indeed another successful event in the brief history of the organisation. The audience, numbering almost 140 and composed of varied nationalities predominantly Dutch, left the hall with the sound of the *Sitar* and the *Tabla* still resonating in the ears. The satisfaction on everyone's face was clearly evident. On the other hand, Asha volunteers were beaming with a sense of accomplishment. A great team effort in the end.



No doubt that the stars of the night were the artists themselves, **Shri. Surajit Das** and **Shri. Sourav Bose**. The concert was rich with talent and variety. It began at 19:20 hrs and lasted for more than 2 hours. Surajit

Das mesmerised the audience with his delicate and agile strokes interleaved by excellent crescendo on the Sitar. Performing the whole concert in a pure classical style is an achievement in itself. Surajit Das set the evening mood alive with the famous raga **Keeravani**, known for its firing power. He started the session slowly like a soft ocean breeze, built it up gradually and finished it like a powerful storm. His harmony and composure was observed throughout the concert. After the recess, the second session of the concert began with a short **Bharatanatyam** performance, followed by the Sitar performance of raga **Sivaranjani**. This raga is known to evoke little or light aggrieving feelings. Many music composers use this raga to express a small dose of sadness in their compositions.

Sourav Bose on the *Tabla* matched Surajit Das beat-by-beat and sound-for-sound. There was some excellent chemistry and synchronisation between the two instruments, which the audience thoroughly enjoyed. Before the concert, the volunteers had a tough time in explaining what a *Tabla* was. One of them defined a *Tabla* as nothing but a table with the 'e' replaced by an 'a', which produces beats like a drum. After the concert everyone was impressed by the pace and tempo of the *Tabla* and clearly understood what a *Tabla* actually is. A *Jughalbandi* is always an arresting experience for the audience as there are two artists with two different instruments being played in tandem with each other. The *Sitar* versus the *Tabla* is one such example. The audience was treated with such a *Jughalbandi* during the last quarter of the concert.

The concert began in a traditional manner with lighting of the

sacred lamp by the artist after being welcomed with bouquets. The artists were introduced to the audience during which a brief description about Asha, its activities and about Indian classical music was also made. The concert was held under the beautifully arranged, yet simple, stage depicting the virtues of the Indian classical music.

The organisation of the concert was a total dedicated team effort. Asha members, with the assistance and support from other people, spread the awareness of the concert and Asha itself in and around Eindhoven. Almost all forms of media were employed (except television) to get the message across to the people. Posters, and flyers were distributed in offices, concert halls, churches, libraries and other places. What proved most successful were the personal contacts that the volunteers had with their friends and colleagues. Additional experiment with online booking was also very successful. A quick glance to the feedback analysis at the end of this report suggests that the concert had been an outstanding experience for many. Needless to point out, is also the fact that there are several opportunities for improvements especially in areas of general arrangement and event organisation. **Sur Sandhya** should also serve as a learning experience for Asha Eindhoven.

Both **Hindustani** and **Carnatic** classical music requires pre-requisite structural knowledge to fully

appreciate them.



However, simply enjoying such music and being carried away with the melody does not call for an expert. This was depicted by the audience which, although didn't belong to the class of experts, fully enjoyed the evening and left with an air of enchantment. Indeed music is all about peace, satisfaction, and enjoyment. Overall the concert served three main purposes, it raised public awareness about the issues addressed by Asha to a wider audience, it introduced the Indian classical music style to a few, and finally the proceeds of the evening would be used for a legitimate purpose. Asha Eindhoven is grateful to the artists, volunteers and above all the audience for making **Sur Sandhya** a memorable evening.

The message is "*Expect **Sur Sandhya** to be a regular event every year or six months* "

Jayram M.N with Jatin Thaker