



NCPA creates a two-day Sufi Music Festival this December ... Presents Sama'a: The Mystic Ecstasy...

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Mumbai, 4th December, 2009: With an aim to offer its patrons a taste of the varied forms of music tradition, the NCPA, India's premier art and culture institution, presents a two-day long, soul-stirring **Sufi Music Festival called Sama'a: The Mystic Ecstasy**. *Sama'a*, which in Arabic means 'to listen', is a word used to describe the Sufi practice that helps attain spiritual ecstasy through song, music and dance. Supported by Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation in the service of the arts, the Festival of Sufi Music will be held at the **Tata Theatre, NCPA**, on **December 10th & 11th** at **6.30pm**.

The two-day festival of Sufi music will feature the eminent sitar player **Shujaat Husain Khan on the 10th December**. A group of **Langas & Manganiyars** from Rajasthan, followed by *qawwals* from Fatehpur Sikri: **Salim Hasan Chishti and his troupe will entrance audiences on the 11th December**.

This is for the first time that the festival draws together performers from three prominent strands of music associated with Sufism in the Indian subcontinent. There is *qawwali* and folk music from Rajasthan. In addition Shujaat Khan, with his training in classical music, brings in an added flavour to the Sufi repertoire lined up.

Commenting on the Sufi Festival, Dr. Suvarnalata Rao, Head – Programming (Indian Music), NCPA, said, "It is important to focus on not just the form but also the conception of music. Shujaat, for instance, is the son of Vilayat Khan and has had rigorous classical training. We want to see how he treats the *ghazal* as a form of Sufi expression. "

She further added, "In selecting performers with a diverse repertoire, the NCPA is attempting to bring together people from Sufi and non-Sufi backgrounds. *Qawwals*, for instance, often train in *dargahs*, practically in the lap of renowned Sufi saints. This time, NCPA has invited the group that serves the *dargah* at Fatehpur Sikri."

The festival will also bring together an unusual array of instruments. Apart from the *sitar*, which already has strong Sufi roots of its own, there will also be musical instruments like

kamaicha, morchang, sarangi, dholak, khadtal and algoza.

Mr. Khushroo Suntook, Chairman, NCPA says, "The NCPA wishes to reach out to all the great cultural jewels world-wide. Sufi Music is particularly appreciated and understood in India and we are proud to present leading exponents of this school of this very exquisite genre."

Soothe your senses with soulful melodies at the NCPA's **Tata Theatre** on 10th & 11th December'09 **at 6.30pm.**

Sama'a: The Mystic Ecstasy-Festival of Sufi Music-Schedule:

10th December

Shujaat Husain Khan

An eminent sitar player and heir to the rich legacy of Etawah-Imdadkhani *gharana*, Shujaat Khan will present *ghazals* and other Sufi compositions by mystic poets like Amir Khusrau Dehlavi, Kabir and others, in an unusual style that draws from his remarkable ability to express through voice as well as the vocalised idiom of the sitar.

11th December

Presentation by Langa and Manganiyar musicians

and

***Qawwali* by Salim Mohd. Chishti and group**

Langa and Manganiyar are hereditary caste musicians of the western Rajasthan, who practice music as a profession besides being keepers of genealogy for the Hindu as well as Muslim patrons. A group of ten musicians will render popular poetic folktales like *Laila-Manjoo*, *Heer-Ranjho*, *Sohni-Meher*, *Jasma-Oden* and others, as composed by several Punjabi and Sindhi Sufi saints. Accompanied by instruments such as the soulful algoza, kamaicha and sindhi sarangi, and the pulsating rhythms of dholak and khadtal, they build a magical atmosphere charged with intense emotional appeal.

The grand finale of this two-day festival is the musical ecstasy created by the *qawwali* performance. Salim Mohd. Chishti and group of musicians are attached to the Dargah Sharif at Fatehpur Sikri, a monument dedicated to the great Sufi saint Salim Chishti (1478-1572), who belonged to the Chishti order in India. This order is specially known for the practice of *Sama'a* – the spiritual crescendo through music.

Daily Tickets: Rs. 1,000, 500, 300, 200 & 100/-

Box Office: Bookings for members and non-members has started

To use the online booking facility simply log on to the NCPA official website <http://www.ncpamumbai.com/> buy-tickets or visit www.bookmyshow.com.

For further information please log on to www.ncpamumbai.com

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