

Sufi Kathak

Dance of the Mystics

19th October, 2012
7:00 pm
Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg
New Delhi

Project Report

Prepared by



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PRESENTS

SUFI KATHAK
**Dance of the
Mystics**

EXPLORING THE FEMININE

IN SUFI POETRY

by
MANJARI CHATURVEDI

WITH QAWWALS FROM AWADH
MANGANIARS FROM RAJASTHAN
POETIC CONVERSATION WITH NEESHA SINGH

7.00 p.m, Friday, October 19, 2012,
Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi

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An initiative by
 **SUFI KATHAK
FOUNDATION**

Photo © Amit Mehra

Sufi Kathak: Dance of the Mystics

Artists

Manjari Chaturvedi – Sufi Kathak Dancer
Nurul Hassan & Group from Awadh - Qawwals
Amin Khan & Group from Rajasthan – Manganiars
Poetic conversation between Manjari Chaturvedi & Neesha Singh

Time Duration

2 hours

Attendance

Over 600 guests attended by invitation

Compere for the evening

Ms. Poonam Chaddha

The evening began with Ms. Poonam Chaddha, the compere for the evening who introduced Sufi Kathak Foundation and its various initiatives and the works undertaken by the Foundation.

About the Concert: Sufi Kathak: Dance of the Mystics

A unique concept by Manjari Chaturvedi, this concert explores the feminine in Sufi poetry as depicted by Sufi mystics for their beloved, the Almighty. Such an aspect is solely relegated to the Sufi faith in the Indian sub-continent, where Rumi, Kabir, Hazrat Amir Khusrau, Baba Bulleh Shah and Hazrat Shah Niyaz have presented their pure love and devotion for the divine by characterizing themselves as the wife, bride and beloved of the Almighty.

Manjari Chaturvedi portrayed the same along with her musicians- Sufi Qawwals from Awadh and traditional Manganiars from Rajasthan.



In the Indian-subcontinent, what remains unique to Sufism, is portrayal of love and devotion for the Almighty through the imagery of a woman, wife and beloved as expressed by the male Sufi mystics. Sufi Kathak: Dance of the mystics is a unique concert that presents a concept which has never been explored in an artistic format in front of audiences.

The genuine bridal mysticism that emerged here is renowned. In this, the soul bound to the Divine Beloved ever since primordial covenant waits for the wedding, which popular tales describe in full worldly detail: clothes are laid, delicious foods prepared, rose water is sprinkled everywhere.

About Manjari Chaturvedi:

Manjari Chaturvedi the founder President of Sufi Kathak Foundation is a leading exponent of the Indian classical dance form of Kathak and is acclaimed for being the creator and only performing artist of Sufi Kathak. She has combined the mysticism of Sufi traditions with classical Indian dance to create a stunning new school of performance called Sufi Kathak. Manjari has performed in more than 200 concerts all over the world including Europe (France, Germany, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, U.K. & Ireland), the Middle East (Dubai, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Kuwait), South East Asia (Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka) and Central Asia (Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan) along with Australia and America.

About Participants and Artists:

The evening of the festival was embraced with the two groups of musicians from the small towns of India.

1. **Nurul Hasan Group:** The Qawwal group from the Dargah of Awadh in Uttar Pradesh. This group comprises of 6 members, with Nurul Hasan as a lead singer, Md. Shakeel on Harmonium, Bashar Hasan on Tabla, Shakeel Hussain on Dholak, Saleem Ahmed and Md. Tariq in Chorus.



2. **Rajasthani Manganiars:** Traditional Manganiars from the deserts of Rajasthan comprised of 5 members, with Mammey Khan as a Lead Singer, Amin Khan on Harmonium and Chorus, Bakshe Khan on Sarangi, Roshan Khan on Dholak, and Shafiq Khan on Chorus.
3. **Ms Neesha Singh** is a prominent name in the world of theatre, and has been part of many films and serials.

The auditorium was enchanted with the powerful vocal melodies of the singers and this was further enhanced by the Sufi Kathak by Performance of Manjari

Chaturvedi which led to the uninterrupted applause from the audience in every composition performed.

Poetic Conversation:

A distinctive feature, about the concert was the poetic conversation shared between Ms. Manjari Chaturvedi and Ms. Neesha Singh. The poetries shared, were written by known Sufi poets such as Amir Khusrau, Kabir and Bulleh Shah as the depiction of love for their Beloved, “The Almighty”



The conversation was started by Manjari Chaturvedi in Persian as,

*Chashmay mastay ajabay zulf daraazay ajabay,
Mai parastay ajabay fitna darazay ajabay*

This was translated in English by Neesha Singh,

*O wondrous ecstatic eyes, o wondrous long locks,
O wondrous wine worshipper, o wondrous mischievous sweetheart.....*

The evening continued with such similar conversations and exchange of poems like *Tori Surat Ke Balihari...*, *Aaj basant Mana ley*, *Khabram Rasheed...*, *Mohey apne hi rang mein*, *Khusrau raen suhaag ki...*, *Ranjha chaak Na...*

Sufi Kathak: Dance of the Mystics

Audience Response

*Yesterday I attended your presentation of **Sufi Kathak: Dance of the Mystics**. I must say it was a unique experience of watching a synthesis of Kathak and Sufi poetry it is difficult to express the feelings/experience. It was after decades that I got a chance to listen the traditional form of Qawwali ...*

- Habib Ahmad

Manjari chaturvedi jii akeli nahi , unke saath prakrite (nature/ parbhu kee maya) nritya karti hai, so it is the performance of parmatma, aatma and prakrite,!!!

-Vijay Mishra

What a breathtaking performance by [Manjari Chaturvedi](#).... Sufi Kathak as an art form is really mesmerising. Truly wonderful!....

-Sumit Aggarwal

mermerising and elegant, this is what describes your performance. keep up good work with skf!...

-Amit Bhandari

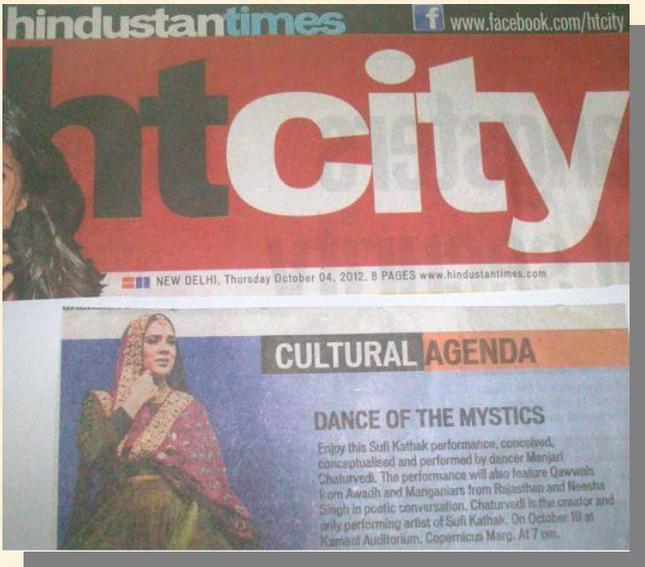
*Ms Manjari ,
I was fortunate to watch your mesmerizing performance on 19th Oct this year, being a fan of Kabir, Ameer Khusro, Bulleh Shah and Ghalib it was a soul curry for me...*

*warm rgds
Ashok Arora*

Media Response:

HT City Delhi- 04th October 2012

The Pioneer Delhi- 23rd October, 2013



Hindustan Times- Life Style 13th October 2012



The Sponsors

This concert would not have been possible without the kind contribution and support of our sponsors. Our sponsors are the backbone of any event organized by the Sufi Kathak Foundation. Their contribution goes directly to the artists involved, and provides them with a platform to showcase their talent and provide suitable income generating avenues. Our sponsors by contributing to Sufi Kathak Foundation, not only contribute to the organization of the festival, but also towards the preservation of centuries old traditional arts and culture, that we at Sufi Kathak Foundation, strive to preserve in their original form and ensure its continuity for the future generations of this country and the world.

Our sponsors for this concert include:



Ministry of Culture, Government of India

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Event organized & managed by:



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