

Ras Rang

A Festival for the people of Dwarka

**In continuation with
Ibaadat Series
Ibaadat-2013**

**9th March, 2013
6:30 pm onwards
At Nirmal Bhartia School, Dwarka
New Delhi**

Project Report

Prepared by



**Sufi Kathak Foundation
J-237, Basement, Saket,
New Delhi- 110017**

**Phone: 011-41764860, +91 9871310119
sufikathakfoundation@gmail.com**



SUFI KATHAK
FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

RAS RANG

A FESTIVAL FOR THE PEOPLE OF DWARKA

IBAADAT

CONCEIVED AND CONCEPTUALIZED
BY MANJARI CHATURVEDI
(Founder of Sufi Kathak)

QAWWAL JANAAB MD. AHMED KHAN WARSI AND GROUP FROM RAMPUR
& QAWWAL JANAAB HAIDER BAKSH AND GROUP FROM LUCKNOW

Saturday, 9th March 2013, 6:30 PM
at Amphitheatre, Nirmal Bhartia School, Sector-14, Dwarka,
New Delhi

Supported by
Delhi Kalyan Samiti, Government of Delhi

Venue partner Nirmal Bhartia School



2013

Ras Rang: A Festival for the people of Dwarka

About the Festival:

Conceptualized by Manjari Chaturvedi, Sufi Kathak Foundation presents “Ras Rang- A Festival for the people of Dwarka”, in continuation to Ibaadat Festival Series. Keeping to its objectives Sufi Kathak Foundation plans to continue this initiative annually, to preserve, promote and archive the age old tradition of Qawwali and gives a platform to traditional Qawwals from various small towns in India, an opportunity to perform in front of a large audience in Delhi. Last year the festival brought together the Qawwals from Dargah Hazrat Ajmer Sharif and Badayun. This year the concert of Qawwali featured Qawal Groups from Lucknow and Rampur in Uttar Pradesh, singing the divine Qawwali compositions that date over 700 years in praise of the Almighty. Ibaadat meaning devotion to the Lord was rightly named, as each Qawal group sang soulful tunes of Sufi music. The listeners were captivated with the music of the Qawwali singers who surrender themselves in praise of the Almighty.

Introduction to Manjari Chaturvedi:

MANJARI CHATURVEDI, Founder and President of Sufi Kathak Foundation, is a leading exponent of the Indian classical dance 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.** She has been working in the field of Sufism and Qawwali for the last 15 years and has performed in more than 300 concerts all over the world in more than 20 countries 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.

Sufi Kathak Foundation:

The Sufi Kathak Foundation (SKF) is a non-profit registered society (Regd. 61883), founded by Manjari Chaturvedi, to create awareness about India's intangible heritage in music, dance and preserve the gradually fading 700 year Sufi traditions in music. SKF aims to create a world of cultural unity, by spreading the secular message of the Sufis and initiate children and orienting the youth to become self-employed through arts, dance and music. Research and documentation form the core strength of SKF's activities that drives the foundation to work on the endangered culture of Qawwali and other related art forms by digitizing and restoring records and creating a database of high quality and high fidelity recordings and biographical data of musicians to be available for research and listening purpose to students, scholars, researchers, musicians and interested public.

SKF also seeks to create centers, organize training classes, workshops and musical concerts to promote Sufi music, Qawwali, Sufi Kathak, and folk & classical dance across the world.

Support Schemes by Sufi Kathak Foundation:

All donations and aid to SKF' is exempt from tax, under section 80(g) and section 12 A of the Income Tax Act. The Foundation works towards providing the assistance, pension and medical support to needy artists, in order to enable them to pursue their art, and give scholarships to students pursuing classical music, Sufi music and dance through various schemes such as

1. Deva Sharif Pension/Medical Aid Scheme
2. Saraswati Pension/Medical Aid Scheme for women in performing arts
3. Amir Khusrau Scholarship Scheme for Music
4. Manjari Chaturvedi Scholarship Scheme for Dance
5. Mevlana Rumi Project Grants

Ms. Manjari Chaturvedi and Sufi Kathak Foundation have been constantly involved in preserving the original identity and content of *Qawwali* Music through several initiatives developed by Sufi Kathak foundation to preserve and at the same time revive the traditional dying arts and this has become one of the main objectives of Sufi Kathak Foundation. The foundation strives to promote and preserve *Qawwali* as form of traditional music and dance form, to provide a sense of culture and belongingness to the future generations of India and most importantly to provide employment and income opportunities to the Qawwali singers.

Apart from the above, it works towards providing assistance and support to needy artists, in order to enable them to pursue their craft, by providing scholarships to students pursuing classical music and dance and also providing pensions and medical insurance to retired needy artists. It is with the same idea, that festivals and concerts are organized by Sufi Kathak Foundation, to provide these traditional musicians with sources of livelihood apart from their usual performances at the local Sufi Shrines. These festivals and concerts also help bring these marginal artists to the forefront and interact with others who are interested in the traditional arts.

**“Through the Sufi Kathak Foundation I am committed to spread this message of communal harmony through music and dance to preserve art & culture of *Qawwali* for future generations.”-
Manjari Chaturvedi, founder and president of Sufi Kathak Foundation**

For the past fourteen years, Ms. Manjari Chaturvedi has contributed single-handedly, to bring *Qawwali* music and dance to the forefront as a classical art form. This 700 year old, oral tradition of *Qawwali* music has been on a decline due to its intangible nature. Often ignored as a strong symbol on Indian culture and arts, special efforts need to be directed towards the promotion of *Qawwali* music and dance

Ras Rang: A Festival for the people of Dwarka

Artists

Janaab Haider Buksh and Group from Hazrat Deva Sharif, Lucknow
&
Janaab Mohammad Ahmad Khan Warsi and Group from Rampur

Time Duration

3 hours

Attendance

Over a hundred guests attended, with invites only

Lighting of the Lamp

Ms. Charu Wahi Principal Nirmal Bhartia School Dwarka, along with
Ms. Manjari Chaturvedi President Sufi Kathak Foundation, Saket

Compere for the evening

Mr. Zia Alvi

Ras Rang: A Festival for the people of Dwarka began with the lighting of the Lamp and Shama, paying homage to those Sufi Saints, who have long left the vicinity of this world, but left behind their pure spirit of peace, love and knowledge, through their centuries old compositions of Sufi Music.

Ms. Charu Wahi, Principal, Nirmal Bhartia School, along with Ms. Manjari Chaturvedi, founder and president of Sufi Kathak Foundation lit the Shama, and as a symbol of their tribute to the Almighty. Mr. Zia Alvi, the compere for the evening introduced Sufi Kathak Foundation and the initiative to organize the festival for the people of Dwarka.

The Music

Qawwali is one of the most well known forms of Sufi music, common to both India and Pakistan. Popularized by the Chisti school of Sufism, it was traditionally performed at the *Dargah* Shrines. Qawwali can be understood as a medium through which the Sufi tradition of *mehfil-e-sama*, or "assembly for listening," is expressed, where believers create a link to religious ecstasy and to God for the performer



and listener alike. *Samas* are spiritual concerts which have been into existence since the beginning of times, before Islam took its shape.



About the Concert

The evening concert was carried forward through performances by Haider Buksh Qawwal group from the Dargah of Hazrat Deva Sharif in Lucknow by singing Qaul which narrates the omnipotent and omnipresent God, the greatness of Prophet Mohommad followed

by Chaap Tilak and Ae ri Sakhi the known Qawwalis written and composed by Hazrat Amir Khusrau.

The evening was further enhanced by the Qawwal Janab Mohommad Ahmad Khan Warsi from Rampur in Uttar Pradesh singing to celebrate the arrival of the spring, bahut kathin hai re dagar panghat ki by Amir Khusrau, Zihale miskin, Allah Hu and Kahe ko biyahi bides. The Musical night turned the ambience to Sufiana and the listeners were left possessed by the purity of the music and the lyrics of the Sufis. The devotion to the Divine lies in the simplicity of the words used in the Sufi Poetry. The amphitheatre was enchanted with the powerful vocal melodies of the singers and this was further enhanced by the rhythmic clapping received from the audience in every number performed. The listeners relived the Sufi mystics' vision through the music that charmed them.

The festival received the tremendous response from the people of Dwarka and they enjoyed this festival as not many such concerts are organized for the Dwarkaites, and they have to travel a long distance to enjoy these types of cultural evenings.

This effort by Sufi Kathak Foundation seeks to create a space for the travelers of this mystic path to take a common man along to the superior stage of existence irrespective of his cast, community, religion or any such worldly differences.



Ras Rang: A Festival for the people of Dwarka

Ibaadat ka programme bohot hi sundar of bohot hi acha Qawwali ka programme hai or bohot din se hum soch rahe the iske bare mein, shoch rahe the is prog ko dekhne k liye dwarka ke logon ke liye is tarike ki koi facility nahi hai wo bohot enjoy karte hain. yaha esa culture hai main bhi adha ghanta late hua ane ke liye lekin bohot sundar programme hai yaha dekh ke jo lag raha hai especially jo qawwal lucknow se or Ram pur se aaye hue hai, meri ye guzarish hai programme organizers se ki is tarha ke programme karte rahen dwarka mein. dwarka mein bohot jarurat hai ese programme ki kyunkli yaha is tarha ka crowd hai log ese programo ko enjoy karte hain.

*Mr. Rakesh Mehra
(Sector-10 Dwarka)*

Audience Responses

Congratulations to you and ur team.
What a ruhani evening. Very sufiana!
A true ibbadat!

Amit Bhandari



mere hisaab se ye jo school me organize kara gaya h dwarka sub-city mein, bohot ananad aa raha bohot acha lag raha hai, or dwarka mein jo log hain inhe bohot travel kar ke mandi house ya is tarha ke programme ke liye bohot door jana padta hai isliye hum log santosh kar ke reh jate hain ki t.v. pe dekh lenge par is tarha jo sub city mein oranise o raha hai bohot bohot badaiya hai ye

Zamila



Main bohot enjoy kar rahi hu ye programme nahi to mujhe ye programme dekhne Nehru park waghra jana padta hai mujhe bohot acha lag raha h

Anita Mehra
Sector 10

.....main jab dilli maha nagar ko dekhta hu to mujhe lagta hai ki man apni kala apni sanskriti se dur jata jar aha hu, lekin shayad is school mein aa ke laga hai ki hum dobara apni zameen se judne lage hain, ibbaadat 2013 ko dekh kar ab mujhe bhi lag raha hai ki ye jo purani humari jo parampara hai usse humse jude.. main guzarish karunga organizers se ki ye har saal 2 ya 3 baar kare saal mein taki hume or kuch seekhne ko or sunne ko mile.

Kumar Rajneesh
Dwarka

The Press

The Asian Age, March 12, 2013

THE ASIAN AGE
Delhi | Mumbai | Kolkata | London
10:50 AM, Friday Mar 29, 2013
Home » Life and Style

Keeping alive tradition of qawwali

Mar 12, 2013 - Age Correspondent

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Manjari Chaturvedi

In continuation to the Ibaadat Festival Series, started in 2012, Sufi Kathak Foundation recently organised Ras Rang, an annual festival of qawwali music. Organised by Manjari Chaturvedi, creator and only performer of Sufi Kathak in the world, the festival aims to revive the culture of qawwali music.

In an attempt to preserve the age-old tradition of qawwals, Manjari says that they plan to start a Qawwali institute soon. "Youngsters are not interested in taking up this dying art form because of lack of money and platforms to perform. I believe an institute will help in bringing in young talent into the world of qawwali," says Majari, who intends to open the institute in UP since most of the qawwals are from smaller town of Uttar Pradesh. The organisation has so far been digitising and restoring records of qawwals to create a database of musicians.

The festival was organised on Saturday at Nirmal Bhartiya School where artists like Ahmed Khan Warsi, Haider Baksh and Group from Lucknow participated.

Deccan Herald 13 March, 2013

DECCAN HERALD

An attempt to revive qawwali

Archana Mishra, March 13, 2013:
Traditional music



For the music lovers in Dwarka, who somehow fail to enjoy musical programmes especially the qawwali, owing to the long distance between central part of the city where majority of these programmes are being conducted, were pleased to attend one such event organised in their area.

Thanks to the Sufi Kathak Foundation (SKF) who recently hosted 'Ras Rang', a qawwali night. It was an extension of the

'Understanding Qawwali' which was recently held at India International Centre where the audience were given a treat of mesmerising qawwali performance by traditional qawwals like Janab Wajahat Hussain Badayuni and Janab Rizwan Muazzam.

'Ras Rang' was organised by Majari Charurvedi, president SKF at Bhartiya Nirmal School, especially for the audiences of Dwarka.

The two qawwals, Haider Baksh from Lucknow and Haji Mohammed Ahmed Khan Warsi from Rampur took the audience on musical journey by giving the best of the spiritual songs on Allah, the Almighty. The qawwali show, which started late in the evening was followed by a welcome note by Manjari. The show kick started with Haider Buksh's Sufiana kalaam Maula Aji which narrates the glory of the omnipotent and omnipresent god, the greatness of Prophet Mohammad and the need to surrender before the god. The qawwal troupe from Lucknow mesmerised the audience with Hazrat Amin Khusarau's compositions Chhap Tilak Sab chhene mause naina milae ke and Ae re sakhi more piya ghar aaye.

The musical performance was followed by Haji Mohammed Ahmed Khan Warsi's qawwalis. The troupe from Rampur started their performance with Allah ho, bahut kathin hai dagar, kahe ko byahi pardes, mohe laaj lage mohe pe ki nazaariya maar gayi. The musical night turned the ambience to Sufiana and left the audience spell bound. Undoubtedly, every word of the qawwali by the traditional musicians who sing at dargah in praise of Allah stirred the soul of the audience during the concert.

"The concert was the part of our Ibadat series where we try to make our youth aware about the true Sufi music," says Majari, who herself is a renowned Sufi Kathak dancer. "Today, it is important to highlight traditional qawwals from all across the globe because everyone does not go to dargah to enjoy their music. Secondly, it is becoming tough for the qawwals to pass their traditional wealth of singing to their kids because of financial instability. Youth are no longer keen to follow their tradition and are ready to work as driver or servants," says Majari, pointing out how qawwali is gradually losing its sheen in present situation.

The Sponsors

This festival has been possible with 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 Ras Rang include:

DELHI KALYAN SAMITI

Delhi Kalyan Samiti, Government of India, NCT Delhi



Nirmal Bharita School, Dwarka

Venue Partner

Event organized and managed by:



Sufi Kathak Foundation

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New Delhi- 110017

Phone: 011-41764860, +91 9871310119

sufikathakfoundation@gmail.com