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Press Release

BHILWARA SUR SANGAM 2018



Bhilwara Sur Sangam, a rare initiative on promoting Indian classical music by LNJ Bhilwara Group, enters 7th edition

New Delhi, April 22, 2018: One of Delhi's most prestigious annual classical Indian music shows, Bhilwara Sur Sangam this year saw top artists including **Padma Shri Pandit Venkatesh Kumar** (Hindustani Classical Vocalist), **Pandit Ajay Shankar Prasanna** (Flute), **Ustad Shujaat Hussain Khan** (Sitar), **ShriAbhishek Borkar** (Sarod), perform and enthral the audience. Organised every year by LNJ Bhilwara Group, Bhilwara Sur Sangam completed its 7th year this year and like every time left the audience spellbound by the ragas and jugalbandi of artists. This year the Sur Sangam was dedicated to Ganasarwati Kishori Amonkar, who incidentally performed her last stage show in this program in 2017.

Shri Ravi Jhunjunwala, Chairman, LNJ Bhilwara Group, and key architect of this cultural show, said, "Bhilwara Sur Sangam is our modest endeavor to spread the rich heritage of Indian classical music traditions. It is indeed heartening that in its seven years of existence many legendary artists of diverse classical traditions and genres have performed on this platform, and helped us reiterate the pride of our great classical traditions."

Started in 2012, this classical musical fest has over the years featured exceptional and legendary artists including Pt. Jasraj, Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Ustad Shahid Pravez Khan, Ustad Rashid Khan, Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar, Ustad Shujaat Husain Khan, Gaansaraswati Kishori Amonkar, Dr N Rajam, Pt. Kumar Bose, Pt. Anindo Chatterjee, Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty, Sushri Kaushiki Chakraborty, Dr Ashwani Bhide Deshpande, to name a few. Bhilwara Sur Sangam has also received immense acclaim from people every year.

This year's artists are also acclaimed. Padma Shri Pt Venkatesh Kumar is a renowned Hindustani classical vocalist who is popular for his rendition of devotional songs composed by the Haridasas. He is also the recipient of Karnataka Sangeet Natya Academy Award (2007) and Vatsala Bhimsen Joshi Award(2008) and some of his popular compositions includes Kaise Ghar Jau Langarwa, Neer bharan kaise jau, Payoji Maine Ram Ratan Dhan Payo etc. Ustad Shujaat Khan is a leading proponent of the Imdakhani gharana (tradition) of sitar playing. Ustad Khan is celebrated for his elegant use of meend (glissando), lyrical sensibility, mastery of technique, and euphonious tone. Pandit Ajay Prasanna received his training in flute from his Guru and father Pandit Bholanath Prasanna, from the Banaras Gharana, who is also the Guru of Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia. Pt Prasanna has left his mark internationally by playing at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, Sydney Festival in Australia and little surprise his outstanding talent has led him to become nominated for the prestigious Grammy Award three times. Born into a musically rich environment in Pune, music has always been a passion Abhishek Borka who underwent training in vocal and tabla under the tutelage of his father Guru Pt. Shekhar Borkar under the Maihar Senia Gharana before anchoring himself on sarod. Some of his compositions include Raga Marwa and Raaga Mallika.

Shri Jhunjunwala added, "We are proud that we succeeded into making this a platform for showcasing the brilliance and variety of Indian classical music. A journey which started modestly has come a long way and we sincerely hope in coming times Bhilwara Sur Sangam will be successful in contributing to, and expanding the horizon of Indian music."

About the LNJ Bhilwara Group

Started in 1960, LNJ Bhilwara Group is a well-diversified conglomerate with major business interests in Textiles, Graphite Electrode, Power Generation and Power Engineering Consultancy. Global in vision, ingrained with Indian values, the Group employs over 25,000 people and is driven by performance ethics pegged on value creation for its stakeholders. The Group has business relations in more than 78 countries across the globe.