

A Musical Evening with Shubha Mudgal

9th August 2009

The Golden Jubilee celebrations started off on a musical note with a wonderful performance by the renowned singer Ms. Shubha Mudgal and her troupe 'Koshish' on the evening of 9th August, a day after the GJ year was inaugurated by Mr. Narayana Murthy. A variety of musical influences ranging from North Indian classical music to Western classical music and jazz are evident in the compositions of **Koshish** - compositions that are powerful, yet restrained, contemporary yet with roots in tradition.

The audience was treated to fusional music where each musician brought to the performance a certain sensibility and style of his/her own. The poetry, too, ranged from 17th century Sufi poetry to Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Gulzar. The musical composition of Gulzar's '**Shabnam**' inspired by a rendition of 'St. Louis Blues' by Louis Armstrong was one of the high points of the evening. The ghazal was based broadly on raaga Kirvani. Gulzar's love poem had a pronounced sentimental quality, and Shubha remarked that it was perhaps the right song to sing at the start of the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Another special number was a tarana (a composition for dance) which began with a bass guitar pattern and a fast groove on the drums. It turned out to be based on the raga Madhukauns. Towards the end of this piece, Shubha sang a mystic poem from Dharni Das, a thoughtful juxtaposition to the sheer rhythmic fun of the tarana.

The group comprised Ms. Shubha Mudgal, Mr. Aneesh Pradhan, Ms. Merlin D'Souza (Piano), Mr. Sudhir Naik (Harmonium), Mr. Murad Ali (Saranggi), Mr. Rath (Percussion), Mr. Benoni Soans (Drums) and Mr. Brennan Denfer (Bass Guitar).

About the Artist - Ms. Shubha Mudgal is a well known singer of Hindustani classical music. She received her training under some of the finest classical musicians of the country namely, Pt. Ram Ashreya Jha, Pt. Vinaya Chandra Maudgalya, Pt. Vasant Thakar, Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki, Pt. Kumar Gandharva and Smt. Naina Devi. She has won several honours at the national and international levels including the Padma Shri in 2000. Shubha has done albums like Ab ke Sawan and Mann ke Manjeere, both very

significant efforts at creating popular rather than populist music. With **Koshish**, she is further widening her repertoire, and singing the verses of the poets she admires.