

# संगीत संदेश

## Sangeet Sandesh

A Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 2 Issue 1- 2008

### OUR MISSION

*To promote East Indian Culture and Spiritual awareness through Music, Language, and other Art Forms. We are committed to helping our students raise their level of ethical and moral consciousness so that they are better prepared to meet the challenges of the society in which they live.*

## Graduation 2007

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the East Indian Music Academy celebrated its annual Graduation Ceremony. As always, the emanating pride of parents and the glowing faces of our students made every moment memorable. It was a display of melodious classical music and fine performances.

Graduation was divided in two sessions to facilitate the growing number of dedicated students of the East Indian Music Academy.

Vice President, Gopaul Lall, opened the first session with an inspiring speech geared towards the parents of our students whose great

encouragement continues to shape the confidence and capabilities of their children. Following that speech

was a beautiful invocation rendered by some of the younger students of EIMA.

Our first session was filled with heart-touching bhajans sang by Hemma Kilawan and Jeevanie Liliah. Their incredible talent and hard work were clearly illustrated in their respective performances. Following, was Pta.

Bharati Ramsamooj, whose deep words of inspiration advised that it is of paramount importance we develop admirable qualities of character that are valued by our families and that we respect the traditions of our heritage. Next was a melodious recital by beginner level students, followed by remarks from two dedicated students, Gloria Soom, Lenny Maharaj, and a parent, Seeranie Nandram. Students were then presented with their certificates and were photographed



by Chate Nauth. The first session concluded with a grand dinner celebration.

Our Second session was gracefully opened by Pt. Bharat Bisesar who gave a motivating speech on the importance of music and culture in our day-to-day lives, which was then complimented by the invocation, *Tumhee Mai Pyaar*. Devyani Persaud, Keaton Ramjit, and Deepa Bhramdat sang bhajans that spread smiles across the audience like a wild fire. The soul stirring sitar recital by Sandhya Prashad, Urvashie Kissoon, Sushma Mahadeo, and Devika Persaud enchanted the audience from beginning to end. The tabla recital led by tabla instructor, Avirodh Ramsamooj, was a sight to behold. His selected group consisted of dedicated students Ravindra Balli, Mahendra Persaud, Urvashie Kissoon, Yoga Ramsamooj, and Kevin Persaud. Each taal swayed the audience

with its incredible precision, intensity and profound emotion.

To conclude our second session, parents Nirvani Prashad and Dave Jagrooph, elaborated on their experiences at the East Indian Music Academy. Mr. Kewal Totaram, a reputable attorney and a strong supporter of the Indo-Caribbean community, shared his humble words on the significance and growing popularity of Hindustani music in the world today. Certificates and a tasty graduation dinner soon followed, and thus ended another year of success for the students of the East Indian Music Academy. Our graduation dinners were provided and served happily by students, parents, and volunteers, whose dedication deserves the warmest applause.

Graduation 2007 left an everlasting impression on all those who attended. Performances were given whole-heartedly by students who illustrated the utmost confidence in their various talents. EIMA students walk away with talents that are taught and encouraged by an outstanding staff whose love for music emanates through their pupils.



*Written By  
Raj Kissoon*

*Photos taken by Noah Barker.*

## Sun Lo Meri Pukaar

Through out our lives, we reflect upon the experiences that have shaped the person we are today. Many of us who attend the East Indian Music Academy have understood the importance of music and the myriad effects it has on our daily lives through the lyrical beauty of bhajans, the divine sounds of the Sitar and the passionate beats of the Tabla.

The East Indian Music Academy reminds us that music is much more than notes streamed together, but an integral part of culture embedded in us all.

The establishment of the East Indian Music Academy illustrates great stride in the progress of cultural *seva* to our community, but with every step, there is another to take. As a community, which includes all those who are reading this newsletter, we should ask ourselves how we can grow as a people, and as a society. We need our people together because nothing can be accomplished without **you**.

As we look at New York City, or even closer, Richmond Hill, Hindu temples are rampant, flags of Shivaji sway in the wind in front of many homes, and the blessed sign of the *OM* is plastered on *Sari* shops and eateries. The question is: how can we use and implement these symbols to reflect Hindu Dharm in our daily lives? How can we serve our people with the same love and devotion with which we pray everyday?

The faces of our children are etched in those Jhandi's that stand firmly outside our homes. The impressions we imprint on our children now, will be visible in our future. How does Hari becomes Harry? Nikhil becomes Nick? Kshitij become Kay? Our children should be comfortable with their identity. We will know that our Dharm prevails the day our children are comfortable being addressed by the names given to them; regardless of where they are or whom they are with.

We may visit many of temples and be enlightened by many satsangs and poojas, but we need to implement the knowledge we attain in order to benefit the world in which we live.

Each of us is capable of much more than we realize.

By volunteering a small portion of our time, we can utilize the teachings of our scriptures to improve mankind.

As a people, we need to come together to uplift not just our society, but the world as a whole. Live like Shri Ram and love like Shri Krishna; our people are calling out to us and its time we answer.

*Written by Vijai Basdeo*

## A Tribute to India's

## Finest

The legendary Hari Om Sharan Ji, an icon to the West Indian community and world religious music, has left a legacy of an institution on its own.

Hari Om Sharan Ji's influence can be said to be the tide that binds whether its Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad, New York, or the Indian diaspora. His contribution will continue to inspire generations to come.

We at EIMA pay tribute to this hero, friend, master teacher, family builder, and Guru. We continue to strive to achieve his standards. A karmic duty accomplished.



*Written by Gopaul Lall*



Uttam Chakraborty, a renowned tabla player, from Calcutta, India, passed away on December 7, 2007. EIMA was privileged to experience his tabla playing during our Swaranjali concerts I and II.

His rhythmic beats mesmerized the audience as he communicated with our tabla students, elaborating on the different styles of tabla playing. He also demonstrated traditional style of performing a tabla solo. He will truly be missed by the musical community and all those who appreciated his unique art

form.

*Written by Vijai Basdeo & Seema Phekoo*

## DATES TO REMEMBER..

**MARCH 22, 2008** - *Holi*

**APRIL 14, 2008** - *Ramnavmi*

**APRIL 20, 2008** - *Hanuman Jayanti*

### UPCOMING CONCERTS

Festival of India (World Music Institute)

Shivkumar Sharma & Zakir Hussain

Saturday, May 5th, 2008 8:00 pm

For Tickets and Information call: 212.545.7536

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Contact us @ [support@eima.us](mailto:support@eima.us) for suggestions and any other enquires.

## Hindi Quotation of the Month

*Vidyaa Dadaati Vinayam.*  
Learning confers humility

## Aaj Ka Sandesh

**Sundays @ 8:00 AM**

ITV- Channels 77 & 563

\* If you would like to contribute to this program, please contact EIMA at 718-738-7836

**"A Hindu Program with a difference."**