

संगीत संदेश

Sangeet Sandesh

A Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 4 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.

Maa Ki Mamta



Mother to Child

Mother is the truest friend we have, when trials, heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine, desert us when troubles thicken around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts. --

Washington Irving (1783-1859)

Know this, my child:

As a mother, I love you; I have always loved you, and I will love you forever. If there were times when you doubted my true feelings, I hope that my words and actions compensated for my shortcomings.

If there were times when I just wasn't there, or I arrived late to your important school event, know that I tried to give you as much of my time as possible in this hectic, hurried world in which we live.

For the hundredth time that I said: "Know your friends. Be careful what you eat and drink out there. Take it easy on the road." Know that I loved you enough to give you the safety and protection you have a right to, and I have an obligation to give. I have only tried to give you insights into life's unpleasantness without scaring you too much while, at the same time, giving myself peace of mind.

And on those occasions when I said "No" when other mothers said "Yes", know that I loved you enough to ignore what other mothers did or said, not to cause you hurt or pain, only to protect you from a seemingly untrusting world. I know you must have hated me for it. That was the hardest part of all.

For the times when I scolded you, know that I loved you enough to not make excuses for your apparent lack of respect or your bad manners.

"Mother," you say, "You ask so many questions." Know that I loved you enough

to bug you about where you were going, with whom and what time you would get home.

For any time I have hurt you, disappointed you, or let you down, knowingly or unknowingly, know that I am sorry for any pain or hurt I may have caused you; and know that I love you enough to admit that I was wrong and ask for your forgiveness.

On this and every Mother's Day, know that I love you enough to accept you for what you are, and not what I want you to be. Thank you for the pleasures and treasures you have given me.



Written by Sirmati Persaud

Executive Director, Arya Spiritual Center

Ustad Zakir Hussain

Zakir Hussain is an international phenomenon greatly appreciated in the field of percussion and in the world of music. He is a classical tabla virtuoso whose brilliant performances have established him as a national treasure of India, in which he has gained worldwide recognition. His playing is marked by uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity, founded through years of practice and study.

Zakirji, the gifted son of tabla legend Ustad Allarakha, came to the United States in the 1970's, embarking on an international career which includes no fewer than 150 concert dates a year. In 1996, he received the distinct honor of co-composing the opening music for the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. Zakir is the recipient of the 1999 *National Heritage Fellowship*, which is the United States' most prestigious honor for a master in the traditional arts, presented by the First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at the United States Senate on September 28, 1999. In 2005, he was named *Old Dominion Fellow* by the Humanities Council at Princeton University, where he resided for the 2005-2006 semester as a full time professor in the music department, teaching a survey course in Indian classical music and dance. He later taught this course at Stanford University, in the spring of 2007.

Many musicians of India and abroad are inspired by the music of Zakirji. When we carefully examine this remarkable individual who originated from India, we definitely view him as a role model in our lives. As young musicians we can strive to attain his level, and at the same time expand our vision, accomplish our goals, and reach out not only to society, but to the world at large.

Written by Verendra Bunssee

REFLECTIONS

My name is Devin Atma Chandra. I am a student of the East Indian Music Academy. I am learning to play the Harmonium, Sitar, and Tabla. I enjoy learning these instruments because they are interesting, challenging, and fun. My music teachers are Bhai Ravi and Bhai Avi. My teachers are great. They make learning challenging yet fun. Being a part of the East Indian Music Academy has made me a better student. For example my teachers at EIMA have taught me perseverance, to be focused and most important to enjoy learning. Namaste.

Written By Devin Atma Chandra

Hindi Seekho Mere Yaar

In 1997, Madhuri Dixit lip sang to the entranced Shah Rukh Khan "Kab Tak Chup Baithe Ab To Kuch Hai Bol Naa, Kuch Tum Bolo, Kuch Hum Bole, Oh Dholnaa..." As the song resonated through the movie theater, my lips slowly moved to the tune of the song, mouthing lyrics from time to time. Unfortunately, she may have been singing about a green cow, and I would have happily sung along. If I knew Hindi then, I would have understood why she was singing and what it meant.

As my interest grew for the Hindi language, I purchased many "Teach Yourself Hindi" books. Unfortunately learning the word "nahin" (no) is not enough. Imagine answering the following questions in Hindi: How are you? NO. What is your name? NO. Where do you live? NO. Want a laddoo? NO (How can you say no to a Ladoo?)

For many years I searched for institutions that taught Hindi, and then one day I found the East Indian Music Academy. Through the school's Hindi curriculum, I was able to take my knowledge of Hindi to another level. The East Indian Music Academy gave me the opportunity to learn more than "no." I can now say "yes" (just kidding yaar). I never thought that I would be able to read, write, and speak Hindi. I am still learning, and have a long way to go before I am truly versed in the language, but I am proud of the Hindi I've learned thus far.

I'm sure many of us are asked, "do you speak Indian?" and after correcting them that "Indian" is not the name of a language, but that there are multiple Indian languages spoken in India such as Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, etc., we hesitantly say "no." I wanted to change that. Learning Hindi has been a personal goal, which I believe is a goal we can all achieve. If we learn Hindi today, then little Nandu can greet us with "Namaste" tomorrow.

Just in case you were wondering about the translation of that song, it meant: How long will you sit there, say something. You say something and I'll say something, my green cow" What? You don't think Dholna means a green cow? Come, learn Hindi and prove me wrong

Written by Vijai Basdeo

DATES TO REMEMBER...

MAY 11, 2008 - MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 20, 2008 - BUDDHA PURNIMA

Upcoming Concert

East Indian Music Academy Inc. presents
"Aaj Ka Sandesh" Fundraiser
on Sunday, May 25th, 2008 3:00 pm
For Tickets and Information call: 718 738 7836

Chief Editor: Seema Phekoo

Junior Editor: Vijai Basdeo

Contact us @ support@eima.us for further contributions and suggestions.

Hindi Quotation of the Month

Maatri Devo Bhava, Pitri Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava
Honor your Mother, Honor your Father, and Honor your Teacher.

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."