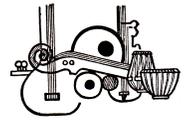


# संगीत संदेश



A Quarterly Newsletter

Sangeet Sandesh

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## 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.

## Deepavali 2009

The word Deepavali or Diwali, comes from Sanskrit origin meaning "row of lights." True to its namesake, this Hindu festival of lights is celebrated by lighting rows of clay lamps called diyas, both in and outside of homes welcoming the Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity, Mother Lakshmi into our homes and hearts.

The history of Deepavali carries across India but unites under a single theme the triumph of good over evil, or lightness over darkness. In some parts,



Diwali represents the homecoming of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after his 14 year exile and defeat of Ravan. The people of Ayodhya welcomed him into the city by lighting rows of diyas.

Traditionally the festival lasts for five days. In many areas of India, the first day of the festival is Dhanteras, dedicated to Lakshmi Maa. People clean their homes and light diyas in hopes that the Goddess will bless them with wealth and prosperity. The second day is devoted to the Goddess of Strength, Kali. This day is focused on the abolishment of evil and laziness. On the third day, the last day of the lunar year, diyas are lit symbolizing knowledge and is dedicated to focusing on our goals and aspirations. The purpose of the festival is to keep these goals in mind throughout the new year. This concept is similar to that of a New Year's resolution in America. The fourth day is the first day of the lunar year. Businesses in India close and settle old books and accounts and have a special ceremony

to open the new ones for the year. Everyone is encouraged to get rid of any anger, jealousy and hate from their lives. Finally, the fifth day, Balipratipada, is centered on seeing good in other people, including one's enemies. This is in honor of an ancient Indian king, Bali, who was infamous for being a generous person.

On Deepavali day in the year 1883, Swami Dayanand died. Swami Dayanand is one of the greatest Hindu religious reformer of our modern time. On the day of Deepavali, we remember him for his greatness. Deepavali also takes on a spiritual meaning apart from the festivities. Hindu philosophy is centered upon the idea that there is more to one's physical body and mind. This inner light, *Atman*, refers to the soul and it is the awareness of this inner light that is celebrated on Deepavali. This inner light is pure and eternal and shines through all darkness and ignorance.

This year, we celebrate Deepavali on Saturday, October 17th, 2009. The East Indian Music Academy would like to wish all a very Happy Diwali. May the Divine Light of Deepavali spread peace, prosperity, happiness and good health in your lives.

By: Seema Phekoo

The East Indian Music Academy wishes you a

## Happy Diwali!



## The Dream Realized



The East Indian Music Academy is very proud of the accomplishments of Rajesh Bhandari. On April 19th, 2009, Rajesh Performed with Ustad Zakir Hussain at Carnegie Hall in a collective effort with musicians from all around the world to bring forth the next generation of musicians. Zakir Hussain and Young Artists Series Rajesh performed with great dexterity and poise.

Rajesh and others worked a week long workshop perfecting pieces with Ustad Zakir Hussain , Pt. Shivkumar Sharma, Steve Smith and Kala Ramnath to present at Zankel Hall.

Rajesh started learning Tabla at a very tender age under the guidance of Pt. Ravideen Ramsamooj and eventually became one of the most shining students E.I.M.A has ever produced. We are honored and privileged to have one of our students bud into an emerging performing artist. It was a historic day for Pt. Ravideen Ramsamooj and E.I.M.A.

By: Avirodh Sharma Ramsamooj

Kro-dho har-shas-cha dar-pash-ch hrieeh  
Stam-bho maan-yamaatitaa  
Yamar-thaan-napa-kar-shan-ti  
Sa vai pandita uch-yate

That person who has control over anger, enjoyment, pride, shame, insolence and vanity, which destroy the higher goals of life, is considered a wise person.

## Age Has No Boundaries

Before the 1960s the term sitar was almost oblivious to the Western World, until a man by the name of Ravi Shankar brought with him to America not only his beautiful heritage but the instrument that has become synonymous with his name, the sitar. Ravi Shankar made his mark on American pop culture by performing at the Monterey Pop Festival, Woodstock and the Concert for Bangladesh. His collaboration with the Beatles singer, George Harrison, commenced the beginning of his world wide recognition. As time passed, Ravi Shankar performed in many concerts around the world. He took under his apprenticeship his daughter Anoushka. After a few years Anoushka began performing along side with her father and soon after established her name as a sitarist in the musical world. At the age of 89, Ravi Shankar still plays his beloved sitar and performs to this date. On October 10th, 2009, Ravi ji and Anoushka graced the presence of Carnegie Hall in New York City. The evening began with Ravi ji thanking the audience for their continued support and appreciation. He and Anoushka set the tone for a mesmerizing night by beginning to play an alap in Raaga Jhog. An alap constitutes the beginning of a raaga and is often accompanied by a drone instrument. Ravi ji and Anoushka picked up the speed with Raaga Adarini and Taal Pancham Sawari accompanied by Tanmoy Bose on tabla rendering a performance that left the audience breath taken and some with tears in their eyes. The final composition was Raaga Mishra Gara played in fast teental. As the ending piece known as the *Jhala* began, a more playful and exciting atmosphere arose in

the audience. The *Jhala* is the step by step acceleration of rhythm in the gat. They ended the night with Sawal Jawab, the dazzling and rapid dialogue between sitar and tabla. Every minute the speed and accuracy of the performers picked up leaving everyone on the edge of their seats. Ravi ji and Anoushka played a thumri, or dhun to finally end the night. After an hour and a half of rigorous and precise playing, there was no doubt; Ravi Shankar is the master of sitar. His continued dedication and devotion to his work has left him with the name as the pioneer of Hindustani classical music.

By: Vimla Warslie

## Diwali Aayee

Diwali aace Diwali aayee Diwali aace ray  
Shaanti bhaaw say pooja karo  
Diwali aayee ray

Maata pitaa kay charan laaj par  
Sab Lakshmee ko dhyaan dharo...(2)  
(Guru charan men...)(2) sheesh niwaaye  
Prem prabhu kaa bhajan karo

Ghar ghar aangan deeya jalaawo  
Apnay man ko pyaar karo...(2)  
(Lakshmee Ganesh...)(2) aur Saraswati  
maiyya  
Satya vachan say binatee karo

Translation

*O Devotee,*

*Diwali has come, Diwali has come. Do prayers with a peaceful mind. Pay respect at the feet of your parents. Do meditation to Mother Lakshmee. Light deeyas in every house and corner and put love in our heart with truthful commitment. Do your prayers to Lakshmee, Ganesh and Mother Saraswati.*

## E. I. M. A Performance

On June 25th 2009, students of the East Indian Music Academy, Inc. performed at PS. 811Q Marathon School (District 75) in celebration of the graduating Class of 2009. Our students sang four songs, "Although We Hail from Different Lands", "Ooche Ooche", "Yaha Mausam Hasta Hasta" and "O Children of America." In addition to singing, E.I.M.A. student Vimla Warslie performed a fabulous dance item from the movie "Umrao Jaan" followed by a short catchy sitar piece, "Mera Jutha He Japaane," performed by Yogavardhan Ramsamooj, Shanna Ramsamooj and Rabindra Lall. At the end of the show the graduates were in for a surprise. Mr. Ojar Ramsamooj, teacher at P.S. 811, played the sitar and showed his students his hidden talents.

By: Yogavardhan Ramsamooj



Ud-dhared-aat-ma-naat-maa-nam  
Naat-maanamava-saada-yet  
Aat-mai-va hyaat-mano ban-dhur-  
Aat-maiva ripu-raat-ma-nah

*You should uplift yourself by your own effort and should not degrade yourself. For you are your own friend and your own enemy.*

Visit [www.eima.us](http://www.eima.us) for more info.

## Dates to Remember...

October 17th - Diwali

November 25th - Thanksgiving (school closed)

December 13th - Graduation

December 12/23 - 01/03 (school closed)

January 4th - School Re-opens



## Hindi Quotation...

तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय  
*Tamaso Maa Jyotir Gamaya*

***O Lord, lead us from the darkness of ignorance into the light of knowledge.***