

AHMEDABAD  
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013

PICS: Piyush Patel, DNA



Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan, sons Amaan and Ayaan with two French ensembles featured the newly-composed 'Ananta Opus-195' in a concert on March 3 as a part of the ongoing Bonjour India - Festival of France

# Amdavad's first date WITH A CONCERTO

Priya Adhyaru-Majithia

Weaving a magical, mellifluous web of abstract and intensely complex, yet poignantly touching music was sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan, sons Amaan and Ayaan along with two French ensembles at a concert on March 3 as a part of the ongoing Bonjour India - Festival of France in Ahmedabad. The programme featured the newly-composed 'Ananta Opus-195' which expanded the musical repertoire of the contemporary classical music scene of the city.

The new music concerto offered serene and soothing synchronisation of Hindustani classical genre and French symphony. It included extended techniques, micro-tonality, oddly innovative tunings, highly disjunctive melodic contour, unconventional instrumentations and abrupt curves of intensity



with soothing notes. The artists collaborated to create a new genre of contemporary classical music that is indefinable by current-day vocabulary of musicology.

Legendary sarod player Amjad Ali Khan said, "This concerto featuring the sarod, symphonic and electronic orchestra, is an original work born from a mélange of different musical cultures. It is the first time it is being played and I am happy that Ahmedabad is seeing its debut." Khan opened the concert with sounds of Vaishnav Jan and dedicated the concerto to the father of the nation, Ma-

hatma Gandhi.

Khan said that playing with the French counterparts was a memorable experience and the entire team could perform to their lyrical best at the programme, thanks to vibrant and appreciative audience of Ahmedabad.

Alliance Française d'Ahmedabad executive committee president Pavan Bakeri said, "Attending this concert was a once-in-a-lifetime kind of experience and we aim to bring such enriching and culturally collaborative programmes to the city in the future as well."

Alliance Française

d'Ahmedabad director, Phillippe Martin said, "This dialogue has been created by the common elements in Indian and French classical music. Both the cultures have a rich heritage and tradition in this art which is being used to create something entirely new."

The composition was written by Pierre Thilloy and performed by Khan and his sons with the Avignon Provence Symphonic Orchestra and Kords Collective. It was conducted by Samuel Jean. Musician Pierre Thilloy began with cultural experimentations and collaborations in Africa and then arrived in India in 2010.

Exploring the possibility of a musical collaboration, Thilloy met Khan and their alliance created 'Ananta Opus-195.' It is one of the few written works based on Hindustani classical raga, which does not have a history of a notation melody.

Earlier in 2012, Amjad Ali Khan collaborated with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and created 'Samaagam' - an experimental fusion in which 12 ragas were fused and improvised to create a composition.

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