



# Indo Canadian Sun

## "Swaranajali" and the "Diwali Mela"

▼ Anupam Sharma

INDIA ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA & THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

**India Centre**  
For  
*Academic, Business and Community Excellence*

Presents  
**Swaranajali's Musical Trilogue**  
**"Space, Wind & Fire"**  
An Indian Classical Fusion Concert

*Wind* *Space* *Fire*  
a musical trilogue

Jubilee Place Concert Hall at MBCI  
173 Talbot Ave, Winnipeg, MB

Friday October 3, 2014 | 7:00pm

The concert is aimed at increasing the awareness of Indian Classical Music. It explores possibilities and diverse sounds and reflections. While showcasing India and its rich culture, it is also about openness and fusion. It is an opportunity for all to experience the possibilities arising from the elements - Space, Wind and Fire.

### India Centre for Academic, Business and Community Excellence

Two major cultural events took place in Winnipeg- "Swaranajali" on October 3, 2014 and the Annual Diwali Mela on October 12, 2014.

#### "Swaranajali's Musical Trilogue- "Space, Wind and Fire"

"Swaranajali" is a musical group from India consisting of three highly innovative musicians who explore the possibilities arising from the fusion of classical and contemporary music of India. Currently on tour across North America, they were in town and played at the Jubilee Place Theatre on October 3, 2014.

The opening set was by the rising local talented duo of Sukhchain Singh and Chamkaur Chibber who played the tabla and harmonium respectively. They received a standing ovation for their performance. The main concert, "Space, Wind & Fire- A Musical Trilogue", consisted of Abhijit Pohanka (Keyboard/"Space"), Ninad Mulaokar (Flute/"Wind") and Ojas Adhiya (Tabla/"Fire").

The Raga(s) characterize and anchor Indian music. According to Wikipedia sources, it is a Sanskrit word defining 'the act of colouring or dyeing' (the mind and mood/emotions in this context) and therefore metaphorically 'any feeling or passion especially love, affection, sympathy, desire, interest, motivation, joy, or delight.' Indian classical music allows for free-flow and improvisation within the set note and structure. Mood and moment of the musicians and with the audience may define what is to follow by way of Improvisation- very much akin to Jazz. Needless to say, the three highly talented musicians took the appreciative audience of 250 people on a journey of exploration and fusion of music and, the interplay with the various feelings and seasons.

The concert was conveyed by the India Centre for Academic, Business and Community Excellence. The India Centre is a partnership between India Association of Manitoba Inc. and the University of Winnipeg. Greetings were

conveyed by Dr. Annette Trimbee, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg and Mr. Hardev Sandhu, President, India Association of Manitoba Inc.

#### Diwali Mela

Each year the Hindu Society of Manitoba hosts the Annual Diwali Mela. The 2014 Mela took place on October 14, 2014 at the RBC Convention Centre. The word "Mela" means a fair or a gathering. Approximately 3500 people from within the Indo-Canadian and the larger community were in attendance. Each year, we increasingly see not only the presence of our community but also a fair representation from the larger community. The Mela is clearly becoming a major event on Winnipeg's social calendar.

The Mela is an occasion to celebrate the Diwali. Diwali is a major festival and, for this day, India is illuminated with candles or diyas to mark the victory and return from exile by Lord Rama. It marks the victory of good over evil. An auspicious national festival, it is celebrated across the communities in India and around the world. Incidentally, the biggest Diwali Celebrations outside of India takes place in Leicester (UK), with up to 35,000 people turning to witness the turning on the almost 6000 illuminations at a major centre. The same spirit also holds true for Winnipeg.

There was a fair representation from the three levels of government- federal, provincial and municipal. Among the dignitaries attending- Premier Greg Selinger, Hon. Stephen Fletcher, Hon. Bidhu Jha, Hon. Mohinder Saran and Ms. Devi Sharma and Mr. Russ Wyatt. Also hosting display booths were major representatives such as RBC, Shaw Communications, Sahara Group and Neeta Gupta's Jewellery.

Not miss the moment, Mr. Bhadrash Bhatt, President/Hindu Society of Manitoba aptly conveyed the importance of good citizenship, contributing to our society and participation in the political process.



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