

Music

A rage for classical notes

Kalpana Bhattacharya talks about her penchant for "Uchanga Sangeet"

FAYZA HAQ

KALPANA Bhattacharya, who performed with flamboyance and finesse, brave in her green and beige sari, in the packed and overflowing large hall, "La Galerie", at the Alliance Francaise recently, said that she had gone into music in a big way as she came from a musical family. This was although none of her parents performed professionally. Her training took place after her marriage, and her husband was the one who encouraged her to take up music seriously and learn under various "ustads" in India. Kalpana said, "It was after all my children were born, when I was about twenty-one, that I went into music with the aim to perform professionally. My gurus included Nolinaksa Datta, Kalidas Dey, and later Ata Hussain Khan who was Datta's guru too. Later I learnt from Khadim Hussain Khan, who, incidentally, was related to Ata Hussain Khan, and with Latafat Hussain Khan (who belonged to the Agra "Atrolri gharana)."

variations of 'Sa-ray-ga-ma-pa-dha-ni'. I play on the 'tanpura' which you automatically learn to play as you learn to sing with the 'ustad'. The 'tanpura' helps me balance the tunes of my songs." Talking about the state of "Uchanga Sangeet" Kalpana said, "I'm sure people enjoy eastern classical music although it may not be as popular here in the radio and TV as it is in India and Pakistan. Even though you may not understand the words yet you are attracted to it by the tune, which has a language of its own, as every 'raag' has its 'roop' as there are 'raags' to match every time of the

day such as the morning or the evening. The tunes attract you whether or not you understand the language of the songs. Ones attracted to the tunes will remain their ardent admirers, and this includes foreigners, who don't necessarily understand our language or our rhythm of life. Students like Suranjana will tell you that they come to learn as they are attracted to it for a reason that they cannot put into words. The appeal has to be cultivated and one has to be exposed to it. There is a 'bandish' which contains a few words with which the singer plays and modulates her/his voice. In

'raags' you get nine 'rosh' such as 'sringar', 'korun', 'shanto', 'bhokti', 'darsho' and 'batshollo'. Only those who can sing well will be able to express the 'rosh'. Thus the 'bandish' (basic binding) contains a few words, and this 'bandish' has come down for centuries." Asked if she practiced daily and to elaborate about her training and practice, Kalpana said, "It is essential that you practice for two hours every day and I prefer to sing in the mornings, after which I do my housework. During my performances, I practice a little more, and my entire family sees to it that I find the time for that, as they are very accommodating. I've been singing since 1960, first learning from Bengali gurus and then from the 'ustads', till 1980. I would still like to learn, if I could find more 'ustads'. I teach and perform now, preferring to teach rather than perform, which I do in private homes too, at personal requests. I have come to Bangladesh many times for three years now, to conduct the workshops that I hold regularly. I was first invited in 1995 by Alimur Rahman Khan, who is well-known in Dhaka himself for his mastery over the 'sitar' and interest in eastern classical music. I taught a few students at his home over a period of time.

for it any more and have no desire to make albums or CDs. When I practice myself I don't have a 'tablchi' all the time and resort to the electronics media for the 'tabla' backup."

Dwelling on her teaching experience in Bangladesh, Kalpana said, "They always practice with the 'harmonium', 'tanpura' and the 'tabla'. With me they rehearse for about three hours, and I believe that they practice more when they go home. They include students from the Dhaka University and others who are doing their Ph.D in Baroda, India, with scholarships and come here for holidays and

about foreigners crowding to hear her music as they did that evening at "La Galerie". Kalpana and the presentation of her music, Kalpana said, "It gives me great pleasure: it is through music that we reach out to one another even though we do not understand each other's languages. I performed 'khyal', which are a presentation of notes based on a single thought." Elaborating on the difference between "khyal" and "thumri", Kalpana said, "In 'khyal' there is a rule by which you are told that you can use some particular notes. In 'thumri' I'm not that bound by a structure and the latter is semi-classical.

"ghazals" which are gaining a foothold in Dhaka and Chittagong, Kalpana said, "It is a love song, which is one sided, as it comes from the man and is very poignant most often. The words have depth as they are based on poetry of famous poets. Fifty years back it was still a semi-classical form but today, the way it is often rendered, it is no more so. If you listen to Begum Akhter, Farida Khanum and Jagjit Singh you will realize its importance and changes within its renderings. Unfortunately, the 'ghazal' now is turning into a 'geet' or folk form: There is not the depth in it as there used to be."

Giving her impression of Bangladesh, Kalpana concluded her conversation by saying, "I enjoyed every bit of the atmosphere here where there is not question of displeasure or discomfort. My students are like my children although I insist that they should practice more. I don't think that Dhaka is that different from Kolkata: the food, clothes and language are the same. At one time we were all together: it is now that there is a division in Bengal. Everyone here is warm and helpful. I don't have any problem of transport as my students come to me, and if I've to go anywhere someone or the other provides the transport only too willingly, so what is there to stomp me from feeling at home here?"

Kalpna Bhattacharya had been accompanied by Madan Gopal Das, on the 'tabla'. He too has been performing for 40 years now, beginning after his Metric examinations, and is about as old as Kalpana. He learnt from "ustads" like Bhagirat Chandra Das, Sakhawat Hossain Khan (from Rampur), Pandit Mitran Dey (from Mymensing). He helps Kalpana regularly during her workshops but plays for other people too and performs regularly in "Surolahari" programmes on BTv and works for "Chayanoti" and teaches at the "Nazrul Academy." His students perform on the radio, TV and the stage.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

January 21 - February 10 Renowned German photographer Andreas Herzau recently conducted a workshop titled 'Foreigners in Bangladesh last year'. The outcome of the workshop, a collection of photographs by fifteen photographers and students is on display at the Goethe Institut Dhaka. The exhibition will continue till February 21 everyday from 2 pm to 8 pm, except weekends and holidays.

Exhibition

February 1-March 2 Saju Art Gallery will hold a painting exhibition, Grand Group Art Exhibition, displaying works of more than a hundred artists of the country from February 1. All senior and young generation artists will participate in this 47th event of Group Art Exhibition. The exhibition will run through March 2 from 10 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. everyday except Friday.

Music

February 2 Reputed musical group Shannoya is going to present its 23rd music evening at Viswa Shahitya Kendra. In this two-and-a-half hour long programme, Shannoya will render a selection of melodious old Bangla songs used in the theatre including those requested by the audience. The programme will start at 6.30 p.m.

Theatre

February 2 Theatre group Natyajan will hold the maiden show of its new production 'Bhubaner Ghatay'-written by Dr. Syed Manjurul Islam and directed by Munira Yusuf Memi--at the Mohila Samity Auditorium. Chairperson of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Mamunur Rashid, and Secretary General of the Federation Liyakat Ali Laki will be present at the show that will start at 6.30 p.m.

Dance

February 2 Nriyanchal--a leading dance institute of the country, will conduct an all-Bangladesh dance competition titled Nriyanchal Prothiba Shandhan 2003, in order to pick new dancing talents. Sponsored by the Standard Chartered Bank, this competition will be inaugurated at the Shilpakala Academy Auditorium in Chittagong on February 2 at 10.30 a.m. The competition will run through whole February and March at eleven centres in the six divisions of the country.

TV GUIDE

BTV

- 08.40 am Shubhechha Nin
08.50 Alor Pathy
09.00 Khabar
09.20 Kheladhula
09.45 Selected Programme
10.00 The News
10.05 Documentary: Janmohumi
10.15 Cartoon Show
10.35 Selected Programme
11.00 News Headlines
12.00 pm News Headlines
03.10 Khabar
03.15 Aiker Shangbadpatro
03.20 Bangla Feature Film
04.00 News Headlines
05.00 Khabar
05.35 Cartoon Show
06.00 Khabar-Desh Janopad
06.10 Selected Programme
06.35 Programme from Chittagong Centre
07.00 English News Headlines
07.05 Share Bazaar & Weather Bulletin
07.10 Modern Songs: Malancho
07.30 Movie Serial: Alif Laila
08.00 Bangla Shangbad of 8'o clock
08.30 Selected Programme
09.00 Magazine Show: Ityadi
10.00 English News at 10'o clock
10.25 News Report
10.30 Selected Programme
11.00 Believe It Or Not
11.30 Shangbad/ News Headlines

CHANNEL-i

- 07.00 am Prothom Shur
09.30 Music Plus
10.00 Drama: Pagol Chiney Rakhon
10.30 Mega Serial: Grihagalpo
11.00 English Drama Serial: Manimal
11.30 Hadj Paloner Niyom Kanon
12.30 Close Up Heat Wave
01.35 Hamd O Naat
02.00 Sattyer Shandhaney
03.00 Channel-i Priyo Naatok
05.35 Janopad-er Khabar
05.45 Tom and Jerry Show
06.10 Music Plus
06.45 Kathy Kathy
07.15 Channel-i News
07.45 Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (Questions)
07.55 Fashion Magazine: Shajai Swapner Ghar
08.25 Drama Serial: Harek Rakom Jibon
09.00 Channel-i News
09.31 Ispahani-i Tele Quiz (Answers)
10.00 Drama Serial: Shei

ATN BANGLA

- 6:00 Islamic Prog
8:00 ATN Bangla News
8:25 Film Magazine: A Saptether
9:00 Mage Serial: Kun Semanay Mukte
9:35 Film Magazine: Henolux Benudon Bichitra
10:10 Reporting prog: Prekhhaprot
11:05 Islamic Prog:
12:00 ATN Bangla News
12:30 Islamic Prog:
2:30 ATN Bangla News Headlines
3:25 Bengali Feature Film : Nure
5:40 The Daily Newspaper
6:25 Children prog : Cholo Gan Gai
7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
7:25 Viewers Opinion Prog: Motamot
8:00 Drama Serial: Nessobdo
8:35 Spcial Prog: Banejja Mela
9:00 ATN Bangla News
9:15 Drama Serial: Manchetra
10:00 ATN Bangla News
10:35 Musical prog.: Saat Rang
11:30 ATN Bangla News
12:00 Bengali Feature Film: Preamer

- 6:30 Flashdance
8:30 ATF
10:15 Risk
12:00 Superstition
2:00 Dark Asylum
4:00 Practical Magic
6:15 Leave It To Beaver
8:00 Enter The Dragon
10:00 Last Action Hero
12:45 Mercy
2:30 Practical Magic
4:45 Dying To Live

AXN

- 6:30 Movie: U-571
8:30 Rated
9:30 Pacific Blue
10:30 Earth Final Conflict
11:30 CSI
12:30 Now See This
1:30 Pacific Blue
2:30 Movie: U-571
4:30 High Action Adrenalin
5:30 Now See This
6:30 CSI
7:30 Motorworld
8:30 Seven Days
9:30 Who Dares Wins
10:30 Movie: Cruel Intentions
12:30 Profiler

SONY

- 6:00 Music Mantra
6:30 Just Mohabbat
7:00 Dil Ka Dwar Sanget
7:30 Amrit Varsha
8:00 Sant Asaram Vani
8:30 Charbusters
9:00 Good Morning Disney
10:00 Music Mantra
10:30 Bourmvita Quiz Contest
11:00 Shree Ganesh
12:00 Hum Sab Ek Hain
12:30 Kya Haadsa Kya Haqeeqat
1:30 Kabhi Biwi Kabhi Jasoos

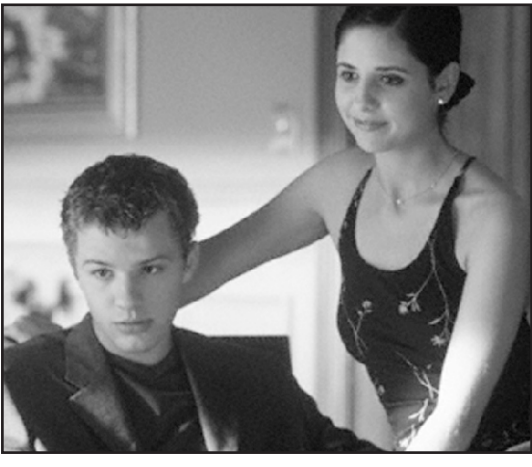
TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

HBO: 10.00 p.m. Last Action Hero Young Danny Madigan is a big fan of Jack Slater, a larger-than-life action hero played by Arnold Schwarzenegger. When his best friend, Nick the projectionist, gives him a magic ticket to the new Jack Slater film, Danny is transported into Slater's world, where the good guys always win. One of Slater's enemies, Benedict the hitman, gets hold of the ticket and ends up in Danny's world.

Star Movies: 9.15 p.m. Shanghai Noon. A 19th century Western directed by Tom Dey, Shanghai Noon stars Jackie Chan as Chon Wang, a clumsy Imperial Guard to the Emperor of China. When Princess Pei Pei (Lucy Liu) is kidnapped from the Forbidden City, Wang feels personally responsible and insists on joining the guards sent to rescue the Princess, who has been whisked away to the United States. In Nevada and hot on

- 2:30 Boogie Woogie
3:00 Om Namay Shivay
4:00 Just Mohabbat
4:30 Chhoti Si Asha
5:00 CATS
5:30 Shri Krishna
6:30 Disney Hour
7:30 Chartbusters
8:00 Music Mantra
8:30 Kya Haadsa Kya Haqeeqat
9:30 Sunsilik Femina Miss India 2003
10:00 Sunsilik Femina Miss India 2003 (Contd)
10:15 Replicant
12:00 Tigerland The Legend of Bagger Vance
3:30 Bedazzled
5:15 Antitrust
7:00 Brotherhood of The Wolf
7:00 [V] Hit Machine
7:30 [V] Back To Back
8:00 [V] Jumpstart
9:00 [V] Hit Machine
9:30 [V] Back To Back
10:00 [V] Hit Machine
11:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
12:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox
12:30 [V] Fdfs
13:00 [V] Hit Machine
13:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
14:00 [V] Back To Back
14:30 [V] Zabardast Hits
15:00 [V] Back To Back
15:30 [V] Hit Machine
16:00 [V] Hotline
17:00 Vito5@5
17:30 [V] Ideo War
17:45 [V] Hit Machine
18:00 [V] Very V
19:00 Ctrl [V]
19:30 [V] Zabardast Hits

PICK OF THE DAY



Cruel Intentions On AXN at 10.30 p.m. Kathryn makes a bet that her stepbrother, Sebastian, won't be able to bed Annette--a virgin, who wants to wait until

- 20:00 Po [V]
21:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox
STAR GOLD (Thirty minutes plus)
2:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
3:00 Sg0530n
3:30 Sg0530n
6:30 Geet Bahar
7:00 Sg0930n
10:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
10:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
11:00 Sg1330n
13:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
14:00 Geet Bahar
14:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
14:55 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
15:00 Sg1730n
18:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
18:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
19:00 Friday Gold
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (Thirty minutes plus)
00:00 My Backyard

- 15:00 Secret Life Of The Crash Test Dummy, The
16:00 Gene Hunters
16:30 Extreme Science
17:00 Mixed Strand
17:30 Return To The Wild
18:00 Dogs With Jobs S3
18:30 Earth Pulse
19:00 Cheetah - Fading Spots
19:30 Wildlife Detectives
20:00 Science Of Sport
21:00 Violent Volcano

STAR WORLD

- (Thirty minutes plus)
00:00 Roswell
1:00 Dark Angel
2:00 Cheers
2:30 Creflo Dollar Daily
3:00 Kenneth Copel
3:30 The Simpsons
4:00 World News
4:30 Suddenly Susan
5:00 Hollywood Squares
5:30 The Brady Bunch
6:00 Cheers
6:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
7:30 Bugs
8:30 Roswell
9:30 Dark Angel
10:30 Oprah Winfrey
11:28 Star Asia Travel
11:30 Special
12:30 Suddenly Susan
13:00 The Bold And The Beautiful
13:30 Hollywood Squares
14:00 The Brady Bunch
14:30 Baywatch
15:30 The Simpsons
16:00 Cheers
16:30 Starnews Asia
17:00 Frasier
17:30 Tna Wrestling
18:25 Starnews Asia
18:30 World's Wildest Police Videos
19:30 Nash Bridges
20:28 Star Asia Travel

- 20:30 Frasier
21:00 World's Wildest Police Videos
STAR SPORTS (Thirty minutes plus)
00:00 Australian Open The Australian Open Sponsored By Kia Motors Melbourne, AUSTRALIA
4:00 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (R)
4:30 Equestrian
Stockholm Globe Show 2002 (R)
5:30 Watersports World (R)
6:30 Futbol Mundial (R)
7:00 Team India Programming India Glorious Toronto, CANADA
India Vs Pakistan Sahara Cup 2nd Odi H/Ls(R)
8:00 Inside The Pga Tour (T)
8:30 Nba Basketball Seattle, WA USA Supersonics (L)
11:00 Oprah Winfrey Man World'S Strongest Man 2002 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA
11:30 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League 2002/03 Liverpool, ENGLAND
13:30 Heineken Classic Golf Heineken Classic Golf 2003, AUSTRALIA
16:30 Nba Basketball

HALLMARK

- 07:00 Scholastic Clifford - Pottluck Party
Pooper/The Best Gift
07:30 Caillou - Episode # 9
08:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 121
09:00 A Mother's Gift
11:00 Cop And A Half
1:00 Touched By An Angel VII (25 X 1hr) - Episode # 25 Shallow Water Part 2 (Aka Family Reunion Part 2 )
02:00 The Guardian - Episode # 9 The Funnies
03:00 Scholastic Clifford - Pottluck Party Pooper/The Best Gift
03:30 Caillou - Episode # 9
04:00 Flipper (66 Episodes X 1hr) - Target Practice
05:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 121 Sesame Street - Episode # 121
06:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 96 Drone
07:00 Harry And The Hendersonsharry And The Hendersons
09:00 Live Through This - Episode # 5
10:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 99 Once Upon A Time
11:00 Harry And The Hendersons

- Seattle, WA USA Sacramento Kings Vs Seattle Supersonics (R)
19:00 Here We Go! English Premier League Preview (T)
19:30 Sportsline Tonight Sportsline (L)
20:00 Team India Programming Mission South Africa (T)
07:00 Scholastic Clifford - Pottluck Party Pooper/The Best Gift
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ESPN