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Abhay Sopori performs at Lalit Kala Akademi Golden Jubilee



Young maestro **Abhay Sopori** (centre) and his Orchestra

As a part of **Lalit Kala Akademi's 60th anniversary** celebrations a musical evening was organised at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi. The evening had a mesmerising performance by Santoor Maestro and music composer **Abhay Rustum Sopori**.

Minister of Culture and Tourism Shripad Naik inaugurated the celebrations.

The inaugural function was followed by a musical concert by santoor maestro and music composer Abhay Rustum Sopori.

Abhay commenced his performance with Raga Rageshree, with brief Aalap and Jod followed by a Gat in Ektaal, Bandish Pholwan Ke Mala and Sufiana Tarana Ta Nom Ta Dare Dim Dim in Teentaal and Gat in Atidrut Teentaal presenting some of the nuances of the Sopori Baaj, the style created by the music great, the legendary Pt. Bhajan Sopori which incorporates the essential technical nuances of both the Gayaki (vocal) and Tantrakari (instrumental) Angs (aspects) such as Meend, Gamak, Glides, Taan, Bol, Chhand and Laya patterns, he was accompanied by Ustad Akram Khan on Tabla. The solo performance was followed by a composition Devotional Bliss which sends the message of the Shaivaite and Sufi thought which is – 'Submission to the Ultimate in love'. The composition presents joyful spirit of Kashmiri culture.

The composition starts with Nasar – which is the opening recitation for a Sufiana Muquam followed by a Lal Wakh, the recitation of Laleshwari, the great Sufi SaintPoetess of Kashmir.

Sopori concluded his performance with a final composition *Irfaan – the Ecstasy*. The composition takes on a journey of India through the notes of Santoor with some of the percussions of India. The composition is based on a classical raga which is equally popular in the North and South Indian Classical music.

The composition finally reaches a crescendo, a metaphor of the divine dance, with scintillating rhythmic and melodic variations.