

Zubin's music ... boom/s in Kashmir

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Srinagar: Like the finest of feasts, the music was grand and sumptuous. Violins swayed from the furious to the melancholic, in a manner only the best of musicians can conjure. Indeed everything that the Bavarian State Orchestra showcased under the expert baton of the peerless Zubin Mehta was unforgettable at the scenic Shalimar Bagh on Saturday.

At the 17th century Shalimar Bagh, home to 450-year-old chinar trees and a range of flowers that would leave any botanist in swoon, it was a different world.

...The music was first-rate. The concert had an East meets West beginning when Soz-o-Saaz, a band of Kashmiri musicians led by **Abhay Rustom Sopori**, collaborated with the German musicians for a traditional local composition. The great fusion work gave a much-needed local flavour to the proceedings. This was followed by Beethoven's Leonore Overture No 3, from Fidelio, the lone opera composed by the master German composer.

Abhay is from the legendary Tyndale – Biscoe School Srinagar, founded 1880 which brought, steered and led Modern Education in the Kashmir Valley, and is a BCom graduate of DU's School for Correspondence Courses, now School of Open Learning.