



Debarati Chattopadhyay (front row, from left), Aashi Rajesh Khatri, Anagha ArunKumar and Supriya Uniyal. Second row: Neeru Gera, Padma Arunachalam, Tanvi Batra, Pandit Sandip Ghosh (guest artist), Dayita Datta (director of Shruti Music Academy), Ishika Muchhal and Rekha Garg. Back: Indradeep Ghosh (violinist) and Jyoti Prakas (tabla player).

## Shruti Music Academy Performance Features Indian Classics

Shruti Music Academy recently presented a North Indian classical concert at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music. The concert was partly funded by the Pasadena Arts and Culture Commission and the city of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division in regard to an individual artist grant awarded to Dayita Datta, director of Shruti Music Academy.

The Academy was founded by Datta, a student of the late vocalist Vidushi Lakshmi Shankar, and she continues her musical training under the guidance of renowned vocalist Pandit Sandip Ghosh. Datta has performed at various prominent venues such as Music Circle, CSULA, LACMA and PCM, to name a few. She is a recipient of Music Apprentice and Music Development grants from the Alliance for California Traditional Arts and an Individual Artist grant from the city of Pasadena. She is also an Orff-trained music educator and teaches early music education at Caltech Children's Center.

The program started with a keynote address by Rachael Doudrick, the department chair for Young Musicians of the Pasadena Conservatory of Music. Doudrick praised Datta for her continued work in the field of art and teaching kids music appreciation through various modalities.

The concert featured students of Shruti Music Academy singing soulful morning ragas accompanied by Jyoti Prakas on tabla. Next was a group tabla performance presented by students of Dhvani Academy of Percussion Music under the direction of Jyoti Prakas.

The concert concluded with Pandit Sandip Ghosh handing over certificate of achievement to students of Shruti Music Academy. Mohana Manihar designed an elegant stage for the concert and also emceed the event. Himanshu Lakhia did an outstanding job managing the sound to have a lasting impact on the audience.