



Violinist Sharat Chandra Srivastava is the founder of Krintan.

NADEEM HASSAN/HT PHOTO

Magic of symphony

String instruments from around the world were played together at a music festival in Gurgaon recently

Garima Vohra

garima.vohra@hindustantimes.com

Imagine all the string instruments of the world coming together to create a perfect symphony on a single platform. The idea of listening to ravanhattha, cello, koto, veena, violin among others, itself brings a twinkle in the eyes and joy on the face. The feet are ready to tap and the mind is already attuned.

And this is not sheer imagination, because Krintan and Friends of Music made it a reality by bringing the maestros of the strings from all over the world together in Gurgaon last week at the Strings of the World festival.

Krintan was founded by Sharat Chandra Srivastava, the festival director, himself a violinist and a founder member of the music band, Mrigya. "Krintan is a musi-

and play music from the heart. Thus, the idea behind Krintan is to produce and promote performances from around the globe that are rooted and meaningful. It is an ode to my grandfather and my guru," says Srivastava with nostalgia lingering in his eyes.

Recalls Srivastava, "My grandfather hailed from Allahabad and at 17 he had already given a duet performance with his guru, Ustad Allaiddin Khan. Such was the magic of his violin that when he played, Pandit Harivansh Rai Bachchan would wait outside his house, sometimes for an hour, rather than enter and interrupt him." In 1957, his grandfather, Pandit Joi Srivastava, came to Delhi on receiving an invitation from Pandit Ravi Shankar to join the national orchestra at All India Radio where he blended Carnatic

music with Dhrupad.

The musicians who performed at the two day festival included Trondheim Soloists and Gjertrud Larsen from Norway, Tim Kliphuis from Amsterdam, Sushmit Sen, Utsav Lal, Sharat Chandra Srivastava from India, Liu Guangyu from China and Charlie Mckerron from Scotland. The genres that were heard included baroque, classical, gypsy jazz, folk music, Celtic music, et al. Also, the festival gave one an opportunity to witness Rajasthani folk musicians performing side by side with Scottish musicians.

"I was happy to be able to learn, experience and create music during the two days," says Utsav Lal, the youngest musician at the festival.

Says Nigel Richard, a Scottish musician who also performed, "It was a fantastic experience as the

cal term that means tremor and is used primarily for the string instruments to mark the deliberate shiver that evokes pure emotion. My grandfather, who has been my guru, not only taught me the nuances of the violin and the different ragas and notes but also taught me to experiment, evolve

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SRIVASTAVA

festival revolved around the string instruments only. The concept should be replicated around the world.”

Adds Srivastava, “The only way to success is not to forget one’s roots. I am happy that through such festivals, my guru will remain alive always.”