

## MUSIC

### REKHA BHARDWAJ CREATES SONIC MAGIC AT EMAMI CULTURAL FIESTA, WITH t2



The nippy breeze across PC Chandra Gardens on January 13 evening didn't deter an under-the-weather Rekha Bhardwaj from delivering a fine performance at Emami Cultural Fiesta, in association with t2. The concert began with *Tere ishq mein*, which was followed by *Tere bin nahin jeena*, her tribute to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. The *Kabira* singer then belted out one chartbuster after another — *Phir le aaya dil*, *Namak ishq ka*, *Sasural genda phool*, *Darling*, *Ranjha Ranjha* and more.

When t2 caught up with the singer minutes after the show, she said: "The kind of songs people demanded... I felt like singing! I enjoyed it thoroughly. For an artiste, this is nourishment for the soul."

During her performance she requested the audience to record and send her the rendition of *Lambi judaai*. Surprised? Well, it's just that she sung it live for the first time. "There comes a moment when you feel the presence of the Almighty; it's a chance to connect with a higher power," she felt.

The applause was resounding. "The response to Emami Cultural Fiesta has been immensely encouraging. With the huge audience turnout at both the Wadali Brothers (1,800-plus) and Rekha Bhardwaj (2,000-plus) shows, it has been proved yet again that this is a city of music lovers. Rekha ji was so moved that she has requested a copy of her performance. The second edition of Emami Cultural Fiesta has been a thumping success," said Aditya V. Agarwal, director, Emami Group.





**Rituparna Sengupta** couldn't miss an opportunity to attend the concert of one of her favourite singers. The actress met Rekha after the performance. "She has a mesmerising voice. Her tonal quality is different. It was a great experience. It was the first time I heard her live. *Naina* is a beautiful song. I loved listening to *Aaj jaane ki zid na karo* and *Dama dam mast kalandar*. Her voice resonates a different feeling!" said Rituparna.



Fashion designer **Amalin Datta** and wife **Kanaklata** were in the audience. "We love her style of singing. It was great to hear her songs live... songs that I have heard in films," Kanaklata told t2.



Smoke House Deli lady **Manjri Agarwal** was present at the concert. "I love her music. She has a deep and soulful voice. My fave track is *Kabira*. I thought the weather and the ambience was just right," she said.

THE EMAMI FAMILY



**R.S. Goenka**, founder and joint chairman, Emami Group



**R.S. Agarwal**, founder and joint chairman, Emami Group



**Harsh V. Agarwal**, director



**Aditya V. Agarwal**, director



(L-R) **Vihan Agarwal**, **Vidula Agarwal**, **Mansi Agarwal**, **Sachin Goenka**, **Vidhishree Agarwal** and **Sashwat Goenka**. "I thoroughly enjoyed the first edition of Emami Cultural Fiesta last year. So, I was looking forward to this year's programmes. I loved Rekha Bhardwaj's concert. She was awesome. The mood at the venue was both magical and electrifying," said Vidula.





(L-R) **Shampa Ghosh, Vandana Jatia** and **Abhilasha Kajaria** were engrossed in the music. "She has a bold and powerful voice. It gives goosebumps! She is an extraordinary performer," said the friends



"Her songs cover a lot of moods. I am hooked to her unusual melodious voice," said **Ananya Dutta**, down from Dubai on vacation



**Ishita Bhattacharya's** fave track is *Kabira*. "After going home, I will collect more of her songs and listen to them on my iPod," said the Class VIII student of B.D. Memorial Institute



**Kritika Kothari** loves *Kabira* and *Ghagra* because both the songs have been picturised on her fave actor, Ranbir Kapoor. "I can't sing but I love to dance to her tracks," smiled the Class III student of Mahadevi Birla World Academy



"Her stage presence is so nice. I love *Genda phool*," said **Neha Agarwal**, a homemaker from Salt Lake

**Text: Ratnalekha Mazumdar**

Pictures: Anindya Shankar Ray