

MUSIC

WADALI BROTHERS SANG TO A PACKED SCIENCE CITY AUDITORIUM AS PART OF EMAMI CULTURAL FIESTA, IN ASSOCIATION WITH t2



Wadali Brothers — Ustad Puran Chand Wadali and Ustad Piyare Lal Wadali — made sure the first Sunday evening of 2015 was well spent by music lovers. They left the crowd at Science City Auditorium spellbound with their Sufi compositions, even though the weather had forced a change in venue (from Prinsep Ghat) for this year's inaugural Emami Cultural Fiesta programme.

They began by singing praises of the Calcutta audience, "who can often understand the art of singing better than the singers!" Then flowed the songs — *Tu mane ya na mane dildara, Dama dam mast kalandar, Yaad piya ki qaye, Aaj jaane ki zid na karo* and much more.

"Around 1,800 people attended the programme. The Sabri Brothers concert last year was met with a great response and so we decided to invite the Wadali Brothers. Calcutta definitely deserves such good music. Inclement weather made us change the venue and all arrangements had to be done within a day — finding a new venue, getting the permissions, printing extra passes... The programme was supposed to end at 8pm but it continued till 8.45pm. People not only stayed till the end, they wanted the concert to continue!" said Aditya V. Agarwal, director of Emami Group.



▲ R.S. Agarwal (left) and R.S. Goenka, the founders of Emami Group



◀ Aditya V. Agarwal, director, Emami Group

◀ **Neena Batra** from Ballygunge is fond of music, so she obviously couldn't miss the Wadali Brothers! "I am a fan. This is the first time I heard them live. It was a divine experience," smiled the homemaker.



◀ **Rachna Virmani** had come down with some friends to the concert. Her favourite Wadali Brothers renditions are *Dama dam mast kalandar* and *Bulleya ki jaana main kaun*. "Sufi music is like meditation. It is very soothing!" said the Hazra resident.



Siblings Snigdha and Mukund Ranilawala from Salt Lake love all kinds of music. "It was a wonderful experience. For me, today's concert was a stress-buster!" said **Snigdha**, a final-year student of J.D. Birla Institute. **Mukund's** fave Wadali Brothers rendition is *Rangrez*. "It was a refreshing experience," said the Class IX student of Delhi Public School, Ruby Park.



▲ (L-R) Gaurav Garg, Sarika Garg, Surbhika Churiwal and Deepak Churiwal had an "amazing" first Sunday of the year at the Emami Cultural Fiesta. "I am very fond of music. It was a dream-come-true moment because I have been listening to them for a long time. I really enjoyed it," said **Deepak**, a resident of Alipore.



◀ Bhowanipore resident **Ruchika Bavishi** posed with mother Sonal for the t2 camera. "I have listened to Wadali Brothers songs before. My fave track is *Tu mane ya na mane!* My parents have come with me to be a part of the evening," said the Calcutta University student.

*Text: Ratnalekha Mazumdar
Pictures: Pabitra Das*



NEXT UP AT EMAMI CULTURAL FIESTA: REKHA BHARDWAJ ON TUESDAY

Rekha Bhardwaj, the voice behind songs like *Phir le aaya dil*, *Kabira*, *Ranjha ranjha*, *Ghagra*, *Namak ishq ka*, *Sasural genda phool*, will perform at **Kala Mandir** as part of the Emami Cultural Fiesta, in association with t2, on **January 13, 6pm**. She counts down to the Tuesday gig with t2.

What are your favourite memories of Calcutta?

I have lovely memories. People here understand and love music. Calcutta is known to have good listeners.

Anything in particular you like about the city?

I love to eat *mishti doi* and *singara* and buy saris! When we were offered *singara*, I discovered that it was actually samosa! Though I don't know the city that well but in 2010 I had come to Calcutta on the last day of Durga Puja... it was a very nice experience.

What are you listening to now?

I listen to a lot of classical music.... Among the young singers, I love listening to Arijit Singh. I also like Ankit Tiwari, Neeti Mohan and Shalmali Kholgade. All the new singers are good.

How do you keep track of new music?

I follow music on YouTube. I will subscribe to mobile apps. I have my own collection.

Your all-time favourite male and female singers?

Ustad Rashid Khan and Lata Mangeshkar.

Who do you consider promising among the new composers?

Sachin-Jigar and Mithoon are doing great work.

What are the most requested songs at your concerts?

Genda phool, *Kabira*, *Namak ishq ka...*

Your thoughts on performing at the Emami Cultural Fiesta?

It is an old Indian corporate house. I am happy to come to Calcutta and perform for them. I hope more corporate houses come forward to promote art and culture.



I love listening to Arijit Singh. I also like Ankit Tiwari, Neeti Mohan and Shalmali Kholgade, among the young singers. All the new singers are good