

MUSIC

EMAMI CULTURAL FIESTA, IN ASSOCIATION WITH t2, IS SET FOR A JANUARY RETURN

With money you can buy everything but not the heart," says Aditya V. Agarwal, director of Emami Group, ahead of the second edition of Emami Cultural Fiesta, in association with t2, a three-day cultural festival to start 2015 on a musical note.

The first event (on January 4) features the Wadali Brothers, one of the biggest names in the Sufiana genre. And the venue is Prinsep Ghat. "The setting will present Calcutta at its best. It is never easy to get permission to host a programme there," says Aditya.

Rekha Bhardwaj will follow up the soul-stirring duo with music that cuts across genres on January 13 at Kala Mandir. Will she sing *Sasural genda phool (Delhi-6)*? And will Usha Uthup join her to belt out *Darling (7 Khoon Maaf)*? Keep your fingers crossed.

Bringing an end to the festival with a smile will be the Paritosh Painter-directed play *Get Rid of My Wife*, a laugh riot, on January 28, once again at Kala Mandir.

"We didn't want an event manager to do everything for us. It's the Emami team that takes care of everything. It's a challenge and an opportunity to learn something from it. It's easy to sponsor a programme but the element of ownership remains missing," says Aditya.

"Earlier, Mr R.S. Agarwal and Mr R.S. Goenka used to do a lot of cultural programmes — 10 to 12 per year — and they had formed the club called Aradhana. Some of the events featured Nitin Mukesh, Sadhana Sargam, Kavita Krishnamurthy, Jagjit Singh... that was a long time ago. Last year, Mr Agarwal started toying with the idea of hosting a series of cultural programmes and we started this festival. And we want to see it get bigger in the coming years," adds the son of R.S. Agarwal.

Going by last year's response to the festival — featuring a *jugalbandi* between Pandit Birju Maharaj and Sivamani, an evening with the Sabri Brothers and finally a play (two shows of *Death of a Salesman* were staged) by Alyque Padamsee — the right notes have been struck.



JANUARY 4

**Performer:** Wadali Brothers (Ustad Puran Chand Wadali and Ustad Piyare Lal Wadali)

**Venue:** Prinsep Ghat, 6pm onwards

**What to expect:** They are best-known for Sufi music even though they have contributed to soundtracks of *Pinjar (Waris Shah nu)*, *Dhoop (Chehra mere yaar ka)* and *Tanu Weds Manu (Rangrez: Hey rangrez mere hey)* to name a few.



JANUARY 13

**Performer:** Rekha Bhardwaj

**Venue:** Kala Mandir, 6pm onwards

**What to expect:** There are so many memorable songs she has contributed to films — *Sasural genda phool (Delhi-6)*, *Badi dheere jali (Ishqiya)*, *Darling (7 Khoon Maaf)*, *Kabira (Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani)*, *Aaj ke naam (Haider)* and *Miley Miley (Happy Ending)*.



JANUARY 28

**Play:** *Get Rid of My Wife*

**Cast:** Paritosh Painter, Jayesh Thakkar, Balvinder Singh Suri, Delnaaz Irani, Kishwer Merchant, Noor Chadda

**Venue:** Kala Mandir, 6pm onwards

**What to expect:** Written and directed by Paritosh Painter, and produced by Ashvin Gidwani, the play involves three friends — one is blind, one is deaf and the other mute — who live together and are chased by creditors. Mario, a goon, is hired to recover debts. And then... watch the play and find out!