City on a song

Every time the notes have rung out in Coimbatore, MetroPlus has been there to record them and share them with its readers. From the odd performance now and then, 10 years ago, the city now has several concerts that have become calendar events. Big names in the world of music and dance visit the city and the events are almost always sell outs.

MetroPlus has enjoyed writing about music and dance. Thanks to individuals and institutions of Coimbatore, we have had an opportunity to attend and write about concerts featuring performers from India and abroad.

GV Centre for Performing Arts deserves special mention as one of the first in the city to invite musical greats from the Hindustani classical world. Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Vikram Ghosh, Ilkka Kitaristi, Amit Heri and Ranjit Barot, have been a few of them who have performed for Coimbatoreans at affordable rates.

Rajalakshmi Fine Arts Brought artists such as Shubha Mudgal and Anita Ratnam among a host of others, to town. Its concerts are extra special as there is always a presentation that explains the raagam and taalam and compositions the artist is performing. Rajalakshmi Fine Arts also gives upcoming artists a stage to showcase their talents.

Isha Yoga Centre Stellar concerts organised by it include Indian Ocean, Colonial Cousins, Sonal Mansingh, Leela Samson, Pete Locket, Kailash Kher, Parveen Sultan, Pandit Jasraj, Rajan Sajan Mishra... the list is long and impressive.

Natyanjali Once a year, the ancient walls of the Perur temple echo with the sound of music and anklets as dancers such as Madhvi Mudgal, Shalu Jindal, Sudarani Raghubarti, Alarmel Valli, Chitra Visweswaran, Sonal Mansingh and Malavika Surukkal offer worship to the deity there.

Shivanjali Awesome concerts such as Damaru and Vishwa Vinayaka have kept audiences mesmerised.

The Hindu Friday Review November Fest In 2010, the Fest came to Coimbatore. It was launched with a goosebump raising abhang concert by Aruna Sairam. The festival has since enjoyed resounding support. In its three years, the fest featured Bombay Jayashri, Ronu Mazumdar, Karakudi Mani, Sudha Raghunathan, Ganesh Rajagopala and Debashish Bhattacharya. Young and happening singers such as Zeb and Haniya from Pakistan sang here, and contemporary playback singers such as Srivives, Mahalakshmi Iyer and Hari

charan also performed hugely successful retros on Rajesh Khanna and R.D. Burman. Jazz performances by Josheba and the Australian Art Orchestra and a rocking concert by Osibisa gave the festival an international feel.

Goethe Zentrum & Coimbatore Music Society Organised several wonderful Jazz evenings.

The Coimbatore Art and Theatrical Society Brought Madras Musical Association and held retros of Simon and Garfunkel and the Beatles.

Coimbatore Chamber Choral Treated the city to some moving choir music.

Miscellany Colleges held their musical shows, while auditions and concerts from reality shows became a regular affair. Big names such as Prabhudheva, Ilaiyaraaja, S.P. Balasubramanium, Chitra, Manu and Harisharan performed in the city.

These events gave us ample opportunity to share our experiences of them with our readers through our reviews, interviews and event coverage. The MetroPlus photographers supported us with stunning visuals.