The night of music

Swaras mingled with rhythmic footwork at Isha Foundation's Sivaratri festival

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The fifth edition of the Mahasivaratri celebrations held by the Isha Foundation in Coimbatore, began with the violin concert of Manjunath and Nagaraj. Seated against the backdrop of the Lingabhairavi temple, they were accompanied by Srinivashnan Raja Rao on the mridangam and Sridhar Udupa on the ghatam.

Their opening piece, 'Parvatilayaka' in Bowli, set the tone for a melody-filled evening. 'Sarasasanadana' in Kapinarayani and the KTP, a ragamakika with the Pallavi, 'Sankara Sivascalaka Karunakara' brought to the fore the brothers' refined artistry. Their exploration of the ragas was replete with emotive ga-makas. The thani was a show of exuberance. 'The concluding 'Ananda atith', made the devotees dance to the tune.

Essence of Ekam

Mecnakshi Chittaranjan's, Ekam, on Day Two, depicted Sankara's philosophy that Brahma is the only Reality. She had chosen appropriate compositions to depict Shaminata, underscored by devotion and commitment. The characterisation and the various elements of swara, jati and the lyrics blended well. The depiction of Siva as jataadhara, bhraminbushita was neelakanta were powerful.

The orchestra included Hari Prasad and Vaidudha Ravi (vocal), AnantalaRashin (vivolin), Sruhti Sagar (flute), Guru Bharadwaj (mridangam) and Pandanallur Pandian (nattuvangam).

The Odissi performance of Bijayini Satpathy and Surupa Sen (of Nityagram), on the final day, underlined their commitment to the art. Their performance included Parvathi Pan-
chaksm, Jayadeva's 'Deevn Sameer Yamanarheere,' Chowk and tribanga. In the ashtapadi, the artists with their well-defined movements brought out the myriad layers of love and longing. They were accompanied by Jatoen Sahu, Sibasankar Satapathy, Smita Kunda and Parshuram Das.