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**Refined artistry** Manjunath and Nagaraj

# The night of music

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

T.K. GANAPATHY

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 Srimushnam Raja Rao on the mridangam and Sridhar Udupa on the ghatam.

Their opening piece, 'Parvathinayaka' in Bowli, set the tone for a melody-filled evening. 'Sarasasamadana' in Kapinarayani and the RTP, a ragamalika with the Pallavi, 'Sankara Sivasankara Karunakara' brought to the fore the brothers' refined artistry. Their exploration of the ragas was replete with emphatic gamakas. The thani was a show of exuberance. The concluding 'Ananda alai', made the devotees dance to the tune.

Bijayini Satpathy and Surupa Sen

### Essence of Ekam

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

The orchestra included Hari Prasad and Vasudha Ravi (vocal), Anantakrishnan (violin), Sruthi Sagar (flute), Guru Bharadwaj (mridangam) and Pandanallur Pandian (nattuvangam).

The Odissi performance of Bijayini Satpathy and Surupa Sen (of Nrityagram), on the final day, underlined their commitment to the art. Their performance included Parvathi Panchakam, Jayadeva's 'Dheera Sameere Yamunatheere,' Chowk and tribanga. In the ashtapadi, the artistes with their well-defined movements brought out the myriad layers of love and longing . They were accompanied by Jateen Sahu, Sibasankar Satpathy, Sanjib Kunda and Parshuram Das.