

Stockholm Sangeet Festival

Stockholm
15 October 2023

Remarks

Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

Namaskar,

It is wonderful to join Stockholm Sangeet Festival again.

It is **great to see such enthusiasm** for Indian classical music and dance here in Sweden.

Today we look forward to a **beautiful diversity of dance and music styles**.

Odissi dance tradition from the east of India,

Carnatic music style of flute and mridangam from south India and
a combination of sitar, shehnai and tabla.

Many congratulations to the organisers for **bringing these artistes** to Stockholm.

Those familiar with Indian tradition would know that a deeply **spiritual and meditative** quality defines Indian classical music.

Many of the **Indian deities** are associated with music and dance.

For instance, **Lord Shiva** is also conceived as the **Nataraja** or the divine dancer. Nataraja bronze statues from Chola period are well known. In those he is visualised as dancing while holding a **Damaru**, which is a small percussion instrument, whose sound symbolises the **primordial sound** that created the universe.

Lord Krishna is also associated with **mesmerising music** especially **flute** playing.

Taala or musical meters are referenced in ancient **Vedic texts**. Performing arts are described in great details in the ancient text of **Natya Shastra** which is around two thousand years old.

Music and dance have been **handed down over generations** through a strong **oral** and **Guru-Shishya** or Teacher-student traditions.

Music has always been part of the Human story.

Despite such a wide range of traditions around the world, **music transcends cultures, languages and borders.**

Music & dance really form bridges across cultures.

Such initiatives to bring arts across geographies are **especially valuable in these challenging times** as they contribute to **positivity, mutual understanding** and **overcoming stereotypes** and **help build friendships.**

Thank you again to the team of organisers for putting together this Sangeet Festival here in Stockholm.