

Indian musician speaks to audience with bamboo flute



G.S. Sachdev

By Kathy Proffit
Emerald Contributor

Without music we'd be a dead race. No head-bobbing, shoulder-shaking, off-key humming, toe-tapping, arm-flapping or struttin' out to give life to the music that grows in our souls.

Classical Indian flutist G.S. Sachdev is one musician who speaks to the souls of his listeners. It is not the actual notes that are of such great importance in Indian music, as in Western music, but the mood the melodies invoke in a listener's heart. Indian music concentrates on the melodic, as opposed to the harmonic qualities displayed in Western music.

A native of Northern India, Sachdev, 52, has been teaching, performing and recording Indian music in this country for the past 15 years. He plays the bamboo flute, a simple, seven-hole, keyless instrument.

Unlike the classical flute, the bamboo flute is much more resonant and flexible in tonal color, and can cover many more pitch nuances. According to University music professor, Bob Trotter, there are very delicate differences in tone quality and pitch in Sachdev's artistic playing.

Consequently, no two performances are alike, as virtuoso Sachdev uses his acute sense of people to feel out the mood of his audience. Characteristically he begins a "raga," an ancient melodic pattern of Hindu

music, with a mood-setting improvisation using a basic chord structure. Then, he is joined by a drum or "tabla" to carry out the rhythmic pattern of the piece.

According to Trotter, Sachdev becomes increasingly animated and brilliant during the raga, feeling how the melodies are moving in and around the whole sound. Often he gives the drummer the option to play brilliant passages, Trotter said.

David Gustafson, president of the ASUO Committee for Musical Arts, responsible for bringing Sachdev here, calls him "amazing." "He has an incredible sense of people and atmosphere," Gustafson said. "And he's very down to earth, almost like a part of the earth," he said. Sachdev is also known for the calming, healing effect his music brings to listeners.

Currently, Sachdev resides in the San Francisco Bay area where he has established a school of Indian music. He performs regularly in the U.S. and on international tours to Europe and the Far East, and also has at least seven recordings to date.

The compelling sounds of Sachdev's accomplished playing will resonant through Beall Hall at the University this Friday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$3.00 for students and \$6.00 for the general public.

Book

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his work, Powers said anything where a person is under his own steam and power on land is open. He has had publishers of other books approach him to do maps for hiking, cross-country skiing and other outdoor activities.

However, first he would like to do more cycling books. He currently is working on a touring book for the San Juan Islands, and after that he'd like to do maps for routes in Seattle.

For the San Juan book, due out in April, Powers will be doing the printing himself from his business, Terragraphics, located in his Eugene home. Currently, he does about 80 percent of the work and his wife does 20 percent as his business partner. To increase productivity in the future, Powers is considering finding people to do the research of areas so he could concentrate on mapping and publishing.

Stores on-campus carrying "Touring Eugene" include the University Bookstore, Pedal Power and Second Nature.

Correction

Dr. Saul Toobert of the University Counseling Center was incorrectly given credit for helping found the University's Center for Gerontology in an article chronicling the history of the center, which appeared in the Oregon Daily Emerald on Oct. 15. Toobert and Dr. Frances Scott, who helped establish the center, later developed and taught for many years a course offered through the center entitled "Confrontations of Death."

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