

# SANGAM

ISSUE III



*"East is east and West is west,  
but when the two giants meet,  
Boundaries & Nationalities will disappear...  
East and West must marry  
On the altar of humanity!"  
-Dr Daisaku Ikeda*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF JAN-JULY 2010



29<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT SRI KRISHNA GANA SABHA  
 Pt. Shubhendra Rao and Saskia Rao-de Haas presented  
 “East marries West” on 29th June 2010, performing  
 together for the first time, in Chennai...

“In a haze of misty camphor, the stage held the ritualistic feel of a concert. And it began, soaked in sitar and cello tones. As the tempo rose, the audience began to move with it, engulfing themselves purely in its essence. The ‘East marries West’ concert at Krishna Gana Sabha in T Nagar was the kind that you would remember for a long time. The classical jugalbandi between the sitar and Indian cello by Shubhendra Rao and Saskia Rao De Haas was a musical treat.” DECCAN CHRONICLE, Chennai

...When they play together the result is mesmerizing...  
 ('A marriage that's music to the ears'-Blog)

...Together they hypnotized me with their soulful innovation within the framework of traditional music, blending what they call elements of the "East marrying the West".  
 NatyaNut-Blog by Preeti

When Dutch-born lass, a trained cellist, and a sitar maestro, Shubhendra Rao, come together, it's indeed music to the ears! Married to each other and wedded to music, it would be apt to term their performance as a marriage of different genres of music. Saskia and Shubhendra entertained the knowledgeable music lovers of Chennai. Their collective success helped drive home the fact that the music of East and West, not only meet, but dissolves into each other to produce a new genre, which transcends geographical, religious and cultural barriers. **Buzz in Town, Chennai**

## East marries West - 'Naturally Inspired' at EDINBURGH FESTIVAL July 2010



### CONCERTS 2010

Concert for Shri Mata Nirmala Devi in Kabela, near Milan, 8th May'10

Concert by Pt. Shubhendra Rao for Sangeet Natak Academy at Meghdoot Theatre, 17th March'10

Concert by Saskia at India Habitat Center, 17<sup>th</sup> March'10

NDTV Live Greenathon, 7th March'10

# SH. SHUBHENDRA RAO at *Pt. Ravi Shankar 90 Not Out! A Tribute*

On 2nd July, Shri Shubhendra Rao, hailed by critics and connoisseurs as a worthy successor to Pandit Ravi Shankar, paid tribute to his Guru's 90<sup>th</sup> birth year in a concert "Ravi Shankar 90 Not Out" which was presented by the Indo-American Friendship Association.



*'Yaksha', Feb'10 - A 13-day cultural extravaganza organized by Isha Foundation with performances by some of the greatest classical artists, culminating in Mahashivarathri, a grand night long celebration of one of the biggest festivals of India. The festival brought together Pt. Shubhendra Rao & wonderful Sarod player and Guru Bhai: Partho Sarthy in a Jugalbandi after 10 years, they were accompanied by father- son duo of Pt. Anindo Chatterjee and Anubrata Chatterjee on the tabla .*

## *'Malhar'* on INDIAN CELLO

The resonating strings of Saskia's 'Indian Cello' presented the different moods of the monsoon...expressing the joy one feels when the rains wash away the dust and heat of the passing summer, but more importantly the spiritual meaning of Malhar - the cleansing of the soul.

"Soulful music filled the air on the ninth evening of the Raag Rang when Saskia Rao-De Haas took over the stage at the India Habitat Center recently... With Ragas *Miyan ki Malhar* and *Desh*, Saskia mesmerized the audience with her understanding of the cello."  
THE AGE, Delhi, July'10

...She played raag Malhar, giving something of a legitimacy to Delhi's timid monsoon...De Haas is among a coterie of Western classical musicians who've adopted the Indian raga not in terms of 'fusion' but as their entire musical bouquet.  
LIVEMINT, HT



Monsoon Express-NDTV LVE  
*'Malhar on Indian Cello'*

COMING SOON

**E A S T marries W E S T**

At the Kennedy Center in **March 2011**

for

*maximum* **INDIA**

(India festival - showcasing India's rich artistic and cultural heritage)

Shubhendra Rao's

**TOUR OF HONG KONG & JAPAN, Sept 2010**

**SPIC MACAY CONCERTS IN NORTHEAST INDIA, August 2010**

.....  
'East marries West' at the City of TAJ MAHAL, Agra 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2010  
.....

Coming soon...

Documentary on **SASKIA RAO-DE HAAS**

Presented By PRASAR BHARTI

OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON

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