



# Work Report

Srivatsan Sridhar

## “Classical and Folk Arts”

April-November

### 1. Targets for the sem:

- Introduce and publicise regular classes in classical music and dance, and encourage interested people to learn
- Maintain and develop the culture of regular jamming in classical music
- Prepare a themed production in classical dance
- Keep the Roots group active by posting interesting content
- Contacting of artists for Virasat concerts
- Acquiring quotations for purchase of inventory
- Purchase of club kurta
- Preparation for orientation of the new batch

### 2. Events :

#### 1. Rukhsat (10th Apr):

Conducted an informal gathering with music and dance, as a farewell to the passing out seniors of the club. Presented them with a memento with their photos on it.

#### 2. Summer School of Cult (May-June):

Classes were conducted in Hindustani vocals by Mrs. Veena Sawale and in Hindustani flute by Mr. Easwaran Anantram. Each workshop had 8 sessions and taught the students basics of the art. There were 7 participants in vocals and 15 in flute. Received good feedback from the students about the courses. Bhangra and

Assamese bamboo folk dance classes were planned but cancelled due to lack of registrations

**3. Pahal (25th June):**

Students of Summer School of Cult Hindustani vocals performed 2 songs for a total of about 8 mins in LT PCSA.

**4. Cult Online Challenge (June-July):**

Launched an online challenge based on a theme for students to show their skills. 4 students submitted their performances.

**5. Baithak 1.0 (2nd July):**

Organised the first Baithak - a Hindustani classical music performance by the senior musicians of the club.

**6. PG, UG Orientations (19th, 26th July):**

Conducted a short classical instrumental performance, and a Garba performance to introduce the freshers to the club. About 150 interested students registered with us, and were added to the Google groups.

**7. Roots Talent Meet (29th July):**

An informal gathering of all UG, PG freshmen who know to perform classical and folk art forms. They were reviewed by seniors and encouraged to join us in further events and jamming sessions. Interested musicians were added to the existing group for regular jamming.

**8. Roots Club Orientation (8th Aug):**

Conducted in an informal and interactive setting in Theatre Room. Featured performances in Bihu, Lavani, Mohiniattam and Hindustani music by the freshers met in the talent meet, and 2 performances by seniors too. It was set to an apt theme of 'Padharo Mhare Des' and included a live rangoli session too. Attended by about 50 freshers and 15 seniors.

**9. Freshiezza (25th-27th Aug):**

Conducted a rangoli competition which had 10 participants, and informal tasks in 'Cultathon' to give some awareness and knowledge about the classical and folk arts.

**10. Baithak 2 - a Kathak production (21st Sep):**

A grand Kathak-based dance-drama production on the theme of Machine and Men, developed with the help of experienced Kathak dancers. The initiative generated tremendous interest among both performers and audiences. There was huge participation from freshers, especially PGs.

**11. Dandiya Night (27th Sep):**

Conducted this time with elaborate ambience, a snacks stall and professional DJ who plays at many big Dandiya and Garba events. The event attracted a huge crowd, and they loved the traditional quality of the music that was played.

### **12. Virasat (11th-13th Oct):**

A grand 3-day series of 4 concerts conducted in association with SPICMACAY, with whose help we had highly experienced artists. Extensive publicity was carried out by sending out bits of information and concert links of the artists. The crowd turnout was high and all the concerts were enjoyed by the crowd a lot.

**13. Cult School:** In-sem Hindustani flute classes by Easwaran Anantram. 60 students participated, and are interested to continue learning ahead.

## **3. In the Pipeline**

- Ideation of theme and performances for the Classical and Folk Arts Night
- Ideation for Folk Weekend, integration of cultures of different Indian states
- Initiation of regular classes in Hindustani flute
- Contacting for Folk Arts Workshops in the next semester

## **December - March**

### **1. Targets for the sem:**

- Initiate and publicise regular classes in classical music and dance
- Conduct a 3rd Baithak at the beginning of the semester
- Conduct workshops in folk arts
- Ideation, publicity and execution of Folk Weekend
- Integrate representation of cultures of Indian states, as per MHRD directive
- Ideation, publicity and execution of Classical and Folk Arts Night
- Involve and motivate juniors, to carry forward the club next year

### **2. Events :**

**1. Cult School (Feb-March):** In-sem Hindustani flute classes by Easwaran Anantram. 60 students participated, and are interested to continue learning ahead.

**2. Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat (3rd Feb):** Conducted a presentation on Tamil culture by members of the Tamil cultural association. Conducted a Santoor concert by a good upcoming musician for the showcase of the culture of Jammu and Kashmir.

**3. Institute Classical and Folk Arts (ICFA) Night (12th Feb):** 13 performances in a variety of genres of classical and folk performances. The audience turnout was very good, almost filling PCSA and it remained so till the end.

**4. Sangeet Sadhak Baithak (3rd March):** A day-long concert at the lakeside in Jalvihar by upcoming musicians from Mumbai and Pune. The concert generated a lot of excitement among people because of its unique concept and venue.

**5. Diamond Jubilee Concert (9th March):** Assisted in the organization of the Institute Diamond Jubilee Concert by Padmashri Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty. Arranged a team of volunteers to execute the concert efficiently.

#### 4. In sync with your manifesto

1. **Annual Production:** Conducted as a grand performance in PCSA to give a good platform to showcase the production. Could not upload on Youtube due to copyright issue with the tracks.
2. **NSO Classical dance:** Did not come through as instructor appointment was not approved by the standing committee in time. Will be pursued for the next year.
3. **Regular classes:** Shall begin for Hindustani flute after Cult School Fall. Proper publicity of other classes at beginning of next semester.
4. **CFA Room and Inventory:** Room was not allocated by SAC. Equipment purchase was not done because purchase invoice was rejected by accounts section.
5. **Inter-college competitions:** Performed at the Sufi singing competition in Umang.
6. **Club kurta:** Purchased and bought by club members. 35 members bought the kurtas.
7. **Online Activity:** Frequent sharing of interesting videos and concerts of classical music, dance on Facebook and Whatsapp groups. Baithak and Virasat videos on Youtube generated many views.
8. **Virasat:** Good quality artists through SPICMACAY, representation of vocals, instrumental, folk music and classical dance. Appreciation workshop was not conducted but replaced by online appreciation through links and information about the artists and their genres.
9. **ICFA Night:** Conduct combined performances of music and dance and involve a variety of genres. Create a well-themed ICFA Night with effective publicity to improve its reach. Exhibit art works made by students during workshops or on their own.
10. **Folk Weekend:** Was not conducted because no weekend was available in the second semester owing to fests like Abhyuday, ECell.
11. **Workshops:** Conducted a workshop on puppetry and storytelling by Mrs. Usha Venkatraman of Puppet Wonders. People of all age groups attended and learnt to convert ideas into stories and to make simple puppets.
12. **Jamming Sessions:** Involved interested freshers. 5 sessions conducted in this semester. Dance jamming was done through the Kathak production.
13. **Baithaks:** Conducted one music Baithak by senior students and one professionally choreographed dance production Baithak in LT PCSA. Conducted a Baithak of several upcoming artists from Mumbai and Pune in the lakeside at Jalvihar.

14. **Audition:** Conducted and identified talented freshers in the Roots Talent Meet held on 29th July.
15. **Dandiya Night:** Workshop was cancelled after discussing with seniors that most people do not enjoy it.

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