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Concert

Wasifuddin DAGAR

Dhrupad singer

Tuesday November 8th 2011

At 6 :00 p. m.

Amphitheatre SIMONE WEIL
5 allée Jacques Berque, Nantes

ITINERAIRES ARTISTIQUES

proposed by

COSMOPOLIS

रुच्य अध्ययन संस्थान

Ustad F. Wasifuddin DAGAR

The exceptional quality of this musician was recognised by the Government of India which awarded him the equivalent of the Legion d' Honneur in France. Since 1995, he has taken *Dhrupad* with great success to most European countries where he has been regularly invited to perform: Germany, Belgium, Spain, Finland, Holland, Hungary, Portugal, United Kingdom, Switzerland. He gave concerts in Paris, among others, for the UNESCO, the Theatre de la Ville, the College of France, and in Lille for the festival "Bombaysers de Lille" and in many other renowned festivals, including the "Festival Meera Bhai" at the Théâtre du Rond-Point: "The Precious Moments of Arles-Sud." He was toured Asia: Japan, Thailand, Bangladesh and Pakistan and the United States where, among other things, he represented the oldest spiritual music of India at the World Peace Summit held in 2000 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and also participated in the Festival of Sacred Music of the Dalai Lama organised by Philip Glass. He has recordings with renowned labels:

UNESCO, JECKLIN, NAVRAS, SENSE, RAGARECORD, MUSIC TODAY...

Having experience of various audiences, Ustad F. Wasifuddin Dagar, knows how to find the way to the heart of the audience and develop a special rapport with his listeners, yet without departing from the principles of this century-old style.s, *Dhrupad*. He has an amazing ability to resonate with the audience that after a while may echo in unison with his singing. The depth of his personality is revealed in his flights of imagination brought by his talent, his art of innovation and improvisation sometimes poetic and tender, sometimes powerful and at times almost frenzied. He likes to say that for him music is "pitch, pulse and pause" the notes, the rhythm, and silence. In India, he frequently gives concerts and lectures for students of colleges and universities. He also had such experiences in Japan and Portugal.

DHRUPAD and the CONCERT of November 8th 2011

Dhrupad, devotional music dating back to Vedic times, is ancient and nevertheless contemporary. It strictly adheres to the grammar of style in its original purity, but the presentation is very personal because the musician is free to improvise on the theme of the raga, provided he does not go beyond the limits characterizing the style of the *Dagarvani Dhrupad*: detailed development of the Alap, ways of approaching musical phrases, laser like precision of microtones.

The group consists of four musicians. The singer himself, his *Pakhawaj* percussionist and two musicians accompanying him on the Indian "lute", the *Tanpura*. This rich drone with four strings is played in a loop ensuring regular speed as well as a velvety touch. The specific microtones of the chosen piece emerge from the tanpura and merges with the singer's voice that runs through three octaves with ease and sometimes at lightning speed.

A recital of *Dhrupad* unfolds in two distinct phases. "The first part, "*Alap*", without text or external percussion is articulated into three segments, slow, medium and fast and the musician portrays the emotional charge of the raga with his playful exploration of the whole musical archetype of the raga, note by note. The "Composition" is a new presentation of the musical theme but with a poetic text most often in praise of Hindu deities sang on time-cycle, "*Tala*", marked and enriched by the accompaniment of *Pakhawaj*. There are also compositions in praise of Sufi saints. In this section, the two musicians keep surprising us thanks to their respective improvisations, but they will always come back and meet on the first beat of the chosen time-cycle.