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A musical reminder for a dignified life

• MADHUR TANKHA



Concert for a cause: Manipuri folk musician Mayanglambam Mangangsana will perform at a special concert at the historic Purana Quila in Delhi on Saturday.

The United Nations in partnership with the European Union, Oxfam India, Save the Children, Asian Development Bank and Wada Na Todo Abhiyan is organising a special concert at the historic Purana Quila here this Saturday to highlight the need for urgent action to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The event will be one of many strategic “Stand Up, Take Action, Make Noise” events around the world from September 17 to 19 as part of a global campaign to urge governments to make good on the promises they made in 2000 at the United Nations, where they signed the Millennium Declaration affirming their commitment to a peaceful, just and equitable world.

A number of indigenous percussion and string artistes from different parts of the country will provide a spectacular symphony of sounds in the Capital. Three composers -- Sharat Chandra Srivastava, Mayanglambam Mangangsana and Shri Ganesh -- will conduct the orchestra for solo pieces that will finally merge together in a grand finale.

The event is endorsed by Bollywood actor Preity Zinta. It will be an occasion for the civil society to promote a petition urging the achievement of the MDGs as being crucial to India's development plans for the next five years.

According to United Nations Resident Coordinator Patrice Coeur-Bizot, at the heart of the Millennium Declaration is the commitment made by nations of the world to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity. “The inspiring words of the Millennium Declaration, ‘We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanising conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected...’ highlight the commitment made in 2000 by leaders across the globe to build a world full of peace, justice and hope.”

The concert takes place on the eve of the 10-year review of the MDGs by the UN General Assembly. It is designed to create awareness and highlight the urgency to accelerate progress towards achievement of the goals.

The programme begins with Buddhist and Sufi chants mixed with string arrangements and as the chants fade out, *bigul* and *been* players herald the beginning of the show. Musicians from each region will play a composed rhythmic pattern for five minutes.

The last segment begins with a violin recital and gradually 100 other instruments join in for a grand finale.

Owing allegiance to the “Senia Gharana”, Sharat Chandra Srivastava has been active on the performing circuit for over two decades. Sharat's nascent talent, nurtured since the age of seven by violinist Shri Joi Srivastava, his grandfather, has lent him a rare understanding of the “Dhrupad- Ang”, a style unique to this gharana under the *guru shishya parampara*.

Manipuri folk musician and composer Mayanglambam Mangangsana has experimented and presented other major techniques of ‘pena’, working to propagate and popularise “this importance and archaic Manipuri musical arts”.

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