

MYSTIC MUSIC SERIES OF SPIC MACAY May 22-23, 2021

On the occasion of World Culture Day Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India Seoul in association with SPIC MACAY - Korea and Indian Students and Researchers in Korea organised a MYSTIC MUSIC SERIES for spreading hope and positivity and in remembrance of music maestros Pt. Rajan Mishra and Pt. Debu Choudhuri on May 22-23, 2021. This was also a part of **India@75** celebrations commemorating 75 years of India as a nation.

On this occasion LIVE performance and artist interaction was conducted with legendary musicians Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Ustad Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar. Participants were enthralled by the mesmerizing performance by the music maestros.

Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt has been acclaimed throughout the world for his electrifying performances on the *mohan veena*, a slide guitar that he modified in shape and design and on which he assimilated techniques from the *sitar*, *sarod* and *veena* lutes. A top disciple of Pt. Ravi Shankar, he has received many honors including the prestigious Padma Shri, the Sangeet Natak Academy Award, and a Grammy for Best World Music Album for his collaboration with Ry Cooder.

Ustaad Faiyaz Wasifuddin Dagar is an Indian classical singer of the Dhrupad tradition going back 500 years. He represents the 20th unbroken generation of dhrupad singers in the Dagar family. As a self-employed musician, apart from performing and touring, he teaches Vocal Dhrupad in the Guru Shishya parampara style at his residence. He was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri Award in 2010 by the Indian Government. As president of the Dhrupad Society of Delhi, he is committed to the cause of popularising and propagating dhrupad by educating people.

Dr. Kiran Seth, founder, SPIC MACAY in his opening remarks spoke about the journey of SPIC MACAY and its relevance during the time of ongoing pandemic. He also emphasised on getting inspirations and learning lessons from different cultures and seeing from beyond in an abstract, subtle, mystical and inspiring domain.

Dr. Sonu Trivedi, Director, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre gave the congratulatory remarks and ensured the support of Cultural Centre in the activities of SPIC MACAY for promotion of Indian cultural heritage in Korea. During these challenging times of pandemic, when not only individuals, nations but the whole of humanity is going through a period of crisis, this mystic music series may provide spiritual healing and would further reinforce our hard pressed attempts to connect with the hearts and minds of the friendly people of Korea, said Dr. Trivedi.

Imparting training through Lec-dems and exposure to classical music and dance to folk arts, Yoga, meditation, holistic food habits, theater along with heritage walks and talks with eminent inspiring personalities SPIC MACAY has grown organically over the years in India and abroad. The event was well attended by volunteers of SPIC MACAY from India and Korea and other cultural enthusiasts from Republic of Korea.

About SPIC MACAY:

The Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY). SPIC MACAY is a non-political, nationwide, voluntary movement founded in 1977 by Dr. Kiran Seth, Professor-Emeritus at IIT-Delhi who was awarded the 'Padma Shri' for his contribution to the arts by the Government of India in the year 2009.

SPIC MACAY's mission is to promote intangible aspects of Indian cultural heritage by promoting Indian classical music, classical dance, folk music, yoga, meditation, crafts, and other aspects of Indian culture. It seeks to inspire youth through experiencing the mysticism embodied in the rich and heterogeneous cultural tapestry of Indian and World Heritage, with a hope that the beauty, grace, values, and wisdom embodied in these arts will influence their way of life and thinking and inspire one to become a better human being. In 2011, SPIC MACAY was awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana award in recognition of its contribution to youth development. SPIC MACAY has established chapters in over 300 towns all over the world. Now SPIC MACAY is starting its Chapter in Republic of Korea to promote Indian culture and heritage and to build cultural bonds between the two countries.