



Nectar In Her Vocals

BY JYOTHSNA HEGDE

Hailing from a family of academicians, Sanjeevani was truly happy to be part of the Fund Raising concert for Ekal Vidyalaya, a cause for education. Her late father was the Director of Education for the Maharashtra government and a professor of Sanskrit and mother retired as professor of English and sister holds a doctorate in English Literature and currently is Reader in English at a city college. Sanjeevani herself has a Masters degree in Commerce, a Diploma in Mass Communication, and one in Film Production. A completely down to earth personality, Sanjeevani is truly the girl next door embracing fame with humility.

How did you get into music?

Well, music was in my vocals. My mother has a good, tuneful voice. But I started training in Classical music early on. (Sanjeevani started learning music at age 10 under renowned gurus of classical music such as Pundit Dinkar Kaikini, she completed her Sangeet Visharad (graduation in Hindustani Classical Music. She is fine-tuning her singing from Ms. Rajshri Pathak and learning *Thumri Gayki*.)

How did you get into Sa Re Ga Ma?

They called me because I had participated in Antakshari. I got noticed as a good singer. So I had to do some auditions during Antakshari, but it was not like now, was much simpler back then, so Gajendra Singhji called me for Sa Re Ga Ma

What is your connection with Ekal Vidyalaya?

I was on a tour last year and when I was at the temple with someone and met Veena Gandhi, a volunteer heard me and invited me to sing and with my background I was drawn to the cause.

Can you tell us about your first Bollywood break, Kareeb?

I got picked up from *Sa Re Ga Ma*, Vinod Chopra heard me and I sang all the songs of Kareeb including *Chori Chori Jab Nazare Mili* (for which she won Aashirwad Award and was nominated for the Filmfare Best Female Playback Award in 1998). Then I sang for *Nayak* (Music by A.R. Rahman), *Kya Dilne Kaha* (Music by Himesh Reshammiya), *Road, Rules and Socha Na That* (Music: Sandesh Shandilya)

What is your take on Reality Shows in India?

Contests are ideally a good platform for youngsters to be seen and known. Now it has become very commercial with lots of manipulation. During our times, the contests were much more innocent.

Most singers in Bollywood often have godfathers. How does one survive without one?

I believe there is only one Godfather, God.

So you think talent can survive in Bollywood with no godfathers?

If you are devoted to music, God will help you find a way. That is the only truth

What is the one quality each singer must cultivate?

Doobke gaao (Immerse yourself, feel the song when you sing). Don't read the song. I cannot do it. Give me lyrics, I cannot read a song.

Is that what you would tell an aspiring singer?

I would not say anything because each artist is complete in himself/herself. You cannot tell a

Mukheshji to sing like Kishore Da

What about new aspiring singers?

If you are talking about films, there is not much you can do, you sing according to the requirements. But if you are interested in classical music, learn it.

Do you think it makes a difference in singing if a singer is classically trained verses not?

That is up to the listener to decide. Some people find no difference, but it makes a difference to me. I compete with myself. What ever I sang say when I started classical music, there was a certain level I had achieved but it was lost in between because I got busy with shows and filmy singing. Again I started training and now I rehearse regularly. And now I'm happy with what I'm doing and that one hour I give in the morning is one the most beautiful times of the day.

Do you have a favorite singer?

I have favorite composers – Rahman and Naushad.

Your favorite song?

Tu Chanda aur main Chandini from *Reshma aur Shera* and *Mohe Panghat Pe*

Is your family into music?

Everyone is in academics, we are into education, and I'm also well educated. I have an elder brother and sister. But everyone likes music.

What can you tell us about Saanjh Sanjeevani?

I do a down the memory lane, nostalgia theme starting from *Jawa hain Mohabbat* mostly from the 40s I cover, Noor Jahan, Shamshaad, Geeta dutt, Asha Bhosle, Lataji. Then I sing my own songs. Then I'm open to requests from audience.

Is it encouraging for musicians to come to the US?

The audience is very disciplined and everyone is hungry for songs. A whole generation of people is brought up on those old songs and they want to listen to them.

With her latest Album, *Meera N Mee*, Sanjeevani hopes to rope in the English speaking audience, the Indian diaspora as well as urban Indian youngsters. The music effortlessly blends the sarangi with the strings, duff with the drums and the original Rajasthani lyrics with the English verses. Her big dream is to take *Meera* to Broadway and West end in the form of *Meera the musical!* Here's wishing a truly devoted, dedicated singer, Sanjeevani her well-deserved success in all her endeavors.

Sanjeevani Enthralls At Ekal Vidyalaya Fundraiser

BY GIRISH MODI

Atlanta: Playback singer and Zee TV's *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa* winner regaled a full hall with her mellifluous voice at the Sardar Patel Bhavan of Gujarati Samaj in

Umaro Jaan, *Mera Sundar Sapna bit gaya*, *Waqt ne kya kiya* and many more. Sanjeevani also sang a Bengali song and a couple of Punjabi, Marathi and Gujarati songs by requests from the audience. Sanjeevani sang

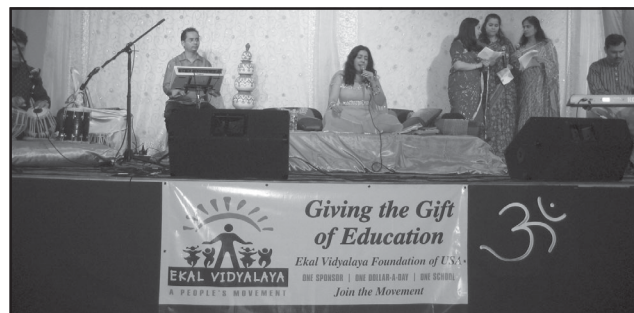
Teri Mehfil mein aaj qawaali from film *Moghul-e-Azam*, but she did not sing any ghazals.

During the break, Shiv Aggarwal, president of the Atlanta chapter of Ekal Vidyalaya, presented a slide show that highlighted their mission of literacy, basic health and hygiene, economic development and social empowerment in rural India.

Sanjeevani also sang *Mere to girdhar gopal* in Hindi/ English from her new album 'Meera and Me'.

Sanjeevani was accompanied by keyboard and flute player Mohit Shastri, octopad player Rupesh Rane and tabla/dholak player Amit Mehta. Amit also is a good singer and ably sang late Mohammad Rafi's songs *Tu Ganga Mauj*, *Suhani Raat Dal Chuki* and duets with Sanjeevani. The last item of the program was *Vande Mataram* from "Anand Math", that was like national anthem before the Indian government adopted *Jangan man adhi nayak* after independence.

Overall, the concert named "Sanjh Sanjeevani" was a nostalgic evening of popular geets and film songs. It was a huge success because it included not only a musical evening but also delicious dinner catered by Lajawaab. Rachna Gupta emceed the show.



Tucker on April 17th. The Atlanta concert was part of her tour of the US on behalf of the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation's annual fundraising initiative.

Sanjeevani started the concert with the song *Jyoti Kalash Chhalke* from film "Bhabhi ki Chudiyaa" whose music was composed by Sudhir Phadke and was originally sung by Lata Mangeshkar. Throughout the evening Sanjeevani continued her roller-coaster ride of film hits from yesteryears starting sung by legendary singers like Noor Jehan, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Geeta Dutt and Shamshad Begam. She started this ride with *Jawan Hain Mohabbat*, *Saiyan Dil mein Aana Re*, *Barsaat Mein* from film *Barsat*, *Dil Chiz kya hai* from

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