

Saptak pays a euphonious tribute to Pandit Vyas

■ Staff Reporter

PAYING true tribute to a maestro who played a major role in writing an episode in the golden era of Hindustani classical music, Saptak, the 24 year-old cultural organisation and Padma Shree Pandit Satish Vyas presented yet another memorable event in the city.

Dedicated to the memory of Pandit C R Vyas, the legendary vocalist, the two-day-long music festival commenced at Dr Vasant Rao Deshpande Hall on Saturday. Display of treasure of Hindustani classical music by prominent female vocalist Malini Rajurkar and a promise by young and talented sitarist Karthik Sheshadri that the riches are in safe hands, marked the opening day.

The festival initiated with the solo sitar recital by Sheshadri, who is disciple of none other than Sitar Maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar left the audience spellbound.

He chose to commence the concert with *Raga Puriya Dhanashree*. He impressed the audiences in the initial *jod*, *jhala* and *aalap*. The *gat*, set in *Drut Matantala* regaled the audiences and satisfied connoisseurs. But the next presentation took them on the musical feast when Sheshadri selected *Raga Simhendra Madhyam*, a typical



Karthik Sheshadri, the young and talented disciple of sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, and Malini Rajurkar, a prominent female vocalist of yesteryears, shared the same stage on Saturday to mark the inaugural day of a two-day-long music festival organised by Saptak in memory of Padma Shree Pandit C R Vyas.

Carnatic raga, and presented two of his own compositions set in *Vilambit Teentaal* and *Drut Ektaal*.

The charming accompaniment by Aneesh Pradhan to Sheshadri's electrifying and aggressive sitar recital made the concert remarkable.

This talented tabla artist is a wonderful composer and knows the nerve of the audience. The performance of both the artists had a touch of modernity suitable for overseas concerts. Sheetal Chute got a chance to accompany these two promising talents of the country on *tanpu-*

ra.

The second half brought with it a display of rich customs and tradition of classical music practised by old singer-composers very religiously. Malini Rajurkar started her recital with *Raga Chakradhar* in which she presented two compositions, '*Laaj Rakho Giridhari*' in *Vilambit Ektaal* and '*Kanha re man mero*' in *Drut Teentaal*. Offering her tributes to Pandit Vyas, she recited one of his famous bandish '*More nainanwa taras gaye ri*' in *Raga Maru Bihag*. Known for her clear voice and *tappa* singing, audi-



ences got the chance to have a glimpse of her speciality in the concert.

Arvind Thatte gave equally vocal harmonium accompaniment to the lady while tabla support was provided by Subhash Kamat. Anjali Bhusari and Rucha Mule were on *tanpura*.

A R-Bhasin of Indian Air Force and Pandit Satish Vyas inaugurated the festival by lighting the lamp and garlanding the portrait of late Pandit Vyas.

They welcomed the artists. Bhalchandra Ganu, Custom and Excise Department presented

bouquets to the artists in the second half. Renuka Deshkar conducted the proceedings of the function and proposed a vote of thanks.

The Orange City music lovers will get a chance to hear some morning ragas on Sunday as the first session of the festival will start at 9.30 in the morning. Noted flutist Rupak Kulkarni and vocalist Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande are the artists for the day. Vocal by Devaki Pandit and Pandit Satish Vyas' *Santoor* recital will mark the concluding session.

(Pics by Moonlight)