

कोजागिरी

Trendz : A Musical Journey of the last 50 years of Bollywood Music



Kojagari Purnima is a harvest festival celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu lunar month of Ashvin (September-October). The rainy season is over and the brightness of the full moon brings special joy. Goddess Lakshmi is worshiped and a night vigil is observed. According to a folk-tale, once a king fell on evil days, and was in great financial straits, but then his queen observed this fast and night vigil, and worshiped the goddess of wealth, Laxmi. Consequently, they were blessed by the goddess and they regained their prosperity. Legend has it that on this night Laxmi goes around from place to place asking “Who is awake?” (Kojagarti?) and bestows her blessings on those she finds awake.

However to celebrate Kojagiri, Maharashtra Mandal of Detroit (MMD) organized such a phenomenal musical show at the Seaholm High School Auditorium in Birmingham, MI that none in the audience had to be asked “Who is awake?” The show titled “Trendz” was witnessed by over 830 music lovers and is by far the largest attendance ever recorded in history of Maharashtra Mandal of Detroit. MMD organized this show in association with Niche Entertainment, Pune. “Trendz” is a musical journey of the past 5 decades of Bollywood music. The amazing singers Hrishikesh Ranade, Jeetendra Abhyankar, Priyanka Barve and Swarada Gokhale-Godbole are household names in India and overseas having won laurels in the “Sare Ga Ma” program. The show is anchored by the inimitable Rahul Sholapurkar and conceived & directed by Milind Oak.

The presentation was uniquely done in an audio visual format where the talented singers sang in the foreground against a giant backdrop depicting that song scene from the movie. The songs were presented in a fast paced chronological fashion starting with the 60s and ending with the 2000s. For most of us, the first three decades was a nostalgic journey reliving the melodies we heard while growing up. The memories of Vividh Bharati, Binaca Geetmala and the local movie cinemas brought us goose bumps. The 90s and the current millennium got the younger crowd to their feet as they sang along their favorite tunes while the “item numbers” brought out the whistles. In between the on stage screen also displayed Bollywood trivia facts through the past 50 years.

As usual, the MMD committee rose to the occasion to handle a show of such monumental proportions and arrangements were made to ensure a smooth and efficient process. Masala Milk, a Kojagiri staple was served during the Intermission and Dinner boxes were offered to all guests for pick up on their way home. I wonder how many people could finish the scrumptious dinner after feasting on 50 years of golden Bollywood music !

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