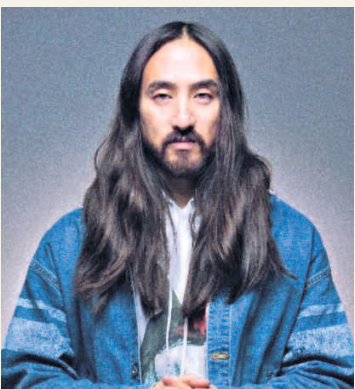


MUSICANA

Steve Aoki gifts a six-year old boy a piano



DJ Steve Aoki gifted a piano to a six-year-old boy after inviting him and his family to his Las Vegas mansion. Aoki thinks he found something special in the boy named Jamar A.K.A. DJ Masterpiece. The electronic dance music

star invited Jamar and his family to his home in Las Vegas that was set up through an organisation that grants wishes to kids aged three to 18 who are battling life-threatening illnesses. During their day together, Aoki was so impressed with his passion for music that he decided to buy him his own piano and music lessons.

John Legend opens up about his family Christmas plans

Singer John Legend revealed his plans for Christmas this year and he is sceptical whether his 3-1/2-year-old daughter Luna Simone will believe in Santa Claus or not. On Friday, the father of two spoke with *People* magazine about some of his holiday traditions while at the Bloomingdale's holiday store window unveiling in New York City. Legend helped unveil the iconic department store's holiday windows and also performed some hits from his Christmas album *A Legendary Christmas: The Deluxe Edition*, reported *People* magazine. The 40-year-old singer says he's not sure if Luna "really believes" in Santa. "Luna, she talks about Santa and I don't know if she really believes in Santa or if she just does it to play along with us," Legend, shares of his daughter with wife Chrissy Teigen.

Cardi B shares video of daughter Kulture dancing on Clout



After singer-rapper Cardi B and Offset's song *Clout* was nominated for a Grammy Award, the mother of one shared an adorable video of her daughter Kulture Kiari, which will just steal your heart. With a big smile on her face, the 16-month-old Kulture can be seen moving her arms around over the music while dancing to the track. "Happy Friday!!! KK fav song got nominated," Cardi captioned the sweet post. "She so New York but was born in Georgia," she wrote. Of course, this isn't the first time Kulture has proved that she's her parents' biggest fan! Last month, her daughter was listening to the hit single.

He would raise his voice at me, says Kelly's girlfriend Jocelyn

Kelly's girlfriend Jocelyn Savage who has been living with him since she was 19-year-old, opened up about her journey with the singer and how he misbehaved with her. The 24-year-old aspiring singer shared a series of pictures on Instagram promoting her side of the story. She is working with Patreon, a subscription-based content service, where she will "post daily chapters of my story." "Things I am going to reveal that was sweared not to see the day of light — by NDA. I am risking my life for many others. This story is 18+ and only for a mature audience, I want to make sure my story is very detailed as I can remember. My first story 'Where It All Started' is out now," she continued. She posted the first story on Saturday (which is behind a paywall) and revealed how she met Kelly in 2015 at one of his concerts.

Nick Jonas joins 'Gonna Tell my Kids' trend



American singer-songwriter and actor Nick Jonas penned a heartfelt message for his future kids and Jonas Brothers and shared it along with a picture from the 'Happiness Begins' tour concert. The 27-year-old in an Instagram post said: I'm gonna

tell my kids that this is a guy that was really happy because he and his brothers had a band and then they broke up, but then they got back together years later and their lives were enriched artistically and emotionally." Jonas added, "He never could have imagined how fortunate he would be to be back on stage with his brothers in front of the world's greatest fans every night doing what he loves..."

Shawn calls Camila 'unbelievable human being'

Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello's blooming romance has been in the news lately and imagining the 2019 American Music Awards without a steamy *Senorita* rendition from them was almost impossible! However, bringing cheer to their fans, the duo set the stage on fire as they sang their hit number and as expected, it was a total steamy episode with the two even engaging in some PDA.. While Cabello wore a fiery red halter dress showing off some skin, Mendes too flaunted toned biceps in a black vest paired with fitted pants. Post the show, Mendes took to Instagram to thank his fans and needless to say Camila, for being the amazing "unbelievable human being" that she is! He posted a picture of him with his lady love holding an AMA.

BEAUTIFUL BLENDS

Captivating hearts with soulful music

Priyanka Pasupuleti

Music is something that refreshes your mind, always. When it comes to live music, the craze is much high and people love to enjoy the thrill that live concerts bring with their 'liveliness'. One such lively band is Swaraag — a team of seven well-trained singers from Rajasthan.

Formed in 2014, the group has its own USP and is now exploring various parts of the globe. The music band comprises singer Asif Khan, sitar player Arif Khan, drummer Sajid Khan, saxophone player Tasruf Ali, tabla player Seif Ali Khan, and the acoustic guitarist Rey Rozerr, besides Arif Khan who plays the Rajasthani instruments Kartal and Morchang.

Arif, the sitar player, has travelled extensively in many cities across countries like Germany, France, Gulf, and Austria. "I had to renew my passport seven times so far as each of them was filled with visa stamps of various places since we have been travelling to different countries. We're glad

that we are showcasing our talent," says Arif.

The group performs Rajasthani folk tracks blended with jazz style using saxophone and Rajasthani folk instrument khartal. The melody thus produced mesmerises not only those who know the actual Rajasthani folk music but also the attendees in general. Their music has a different rhythm which would make audience dance to their songs. They didn't limit themselves to a particular theme and the musicians play Sufi, Rajasthani and Bollywood numbers too.

Specialists in Indo-western fusion music, the team has an immense experience of performing for corporate events, private parties, public concerts and many more that makes them a multifac-

The group performs Rajasthani folk tracks blended with jazz style using saxophone and Rajasthani folk instrument khartal

eted music band. The backbone of this hugely popular and successful band is their founder and manager, Pratap Singh Nirwan — the creator of a complete team and the reason behind the existence of Swaraag.

The team also shares the challenges they face and how tough it is to travel to different places to perform which means they are not left with much time for their families. Also, they re-

quest people not to perform this art without knowing about it properly. "There are a few people who don't know about music properly

and try to imitate us. We want our art and culture to be presented in the right way and get into better platforms. The call from Shankar Mahadevan boosted us a lot and we will soon be working with him," says the team, which is going to start a YouTube channel shortly.

"Though we are not that active on social media, we got good response from the public, thanks to pure word of mouth promotion which made us stand on this successful platform today. Actor Ram Charan and many other celebrities liked our performances," conclude the team members who keep visiting the city to perform at private parties organised by celebrities.



UPCOMING PROJECTS

Salman's films are a genre in themselves: Randeep

Actor Randeep Hooda will be reuniting with Salman Khan on the big screen soon. He says the superstar's films are a genre in themselves. "In *Kick*, I changed Salman. In *Sultan*, I trained him and in this (*Radhe*), we are going to have some confrontation.

Salman's films are a genre in themselves and I think it's a different kind of an atmosphere. I, as an actor, definitely believe that one should be able to adapt to all atmospheres and styles of working and I am excited about it," Randeep said.

"He has been a very good friend and somebody I have looked up to in more ways than one, so it's always exciting to be in a movie with him. Through him, my work reaches a lot more people," added the *Sarbjit* actor. He is also teaming up with his *Highway* director Imtiaz Ali once again.

"We worked together after five years. That (*Highway*) one was a performance-based role and so is this (the upcoming film) and I love the theme of the film. It is #loveaajkal. It is *love aaj kal* in the times of hashtags, and what it used to be before there were mobile phones. It is kind of a comparison between that," said Randeep.

Asked if it is a sequel to the 2009 film *Love Aaj Kal*, he said: "No, it is not. I am not sure how they will describe it." The actor really likes Imtiaz as a



storyteller. "I was talking to somebody. His movies are more like feelings than just a movie or a storyline. It's a feeling he creates with his storytelling which lingers on with people," he said.

Randeep is also looking forward to the release of *Dhaka*. He calls it as a "biggie".

"It's been produced by the Russo Brothers whom I am a big fan of and it's even written by Joe Russo. It was really fun.

It was full-on action film. It could go out to be as the next 'Rambo', you never know," he said referring to the Sylvester Stallone-starrer action film franchise. IANS

BROAD STROKES

Confluence of impressions

Rosy J Mallaparaju displays her art works at a solo art exhibition in the city



Rosy J Mallaparaju is a self-taught artist and an art teacher. Her work involves a wide array of techniques with oil, acrylic and colour pencils. She specialises in painting with her fingers. From fine lines to broad strokes, the techniques are those that she developed over the years. She also expresses her love for art through teaching art as well as conducting workshops on different art forms.

In her solo art exhibition titled 'Confluence of Impressions', on view at Alliance Française till De-

cember 2, she presents the varied impressions from life around us. She captures the radiance of energy of everything around us, many that may even be passed off casually. The paintings capture the vividness of form, shape and colour.

'Confluence of Impressions' extends her work from representing subtleness of energy, themes around mindfulness and healing; and brings out the life around us in the form of colours, contrasting shades flowing from each entity — natural or man-made.



UNFORGETTABLE EVENING

An engaging and sincere rendition

L Ravichander

The Trichur Brothers' concert at the on the second day of the ongoing Kalasagaram music fest witnessed the young singers keeping a packed house engaged for over three hours. The Namami Gange Brothers complimented Kalasagaram at the outset for doing away with customary shawls and bouquets, and replacing it with saplings.

The concert began with *Nera Namithi* in *Ata tala varnam*, *Kanada ragam*. After losing some time in an

attempt to fine-tune the acoustics, they rendered a brisk *Vatapi Ganapathi Bhaje* in Hamsadhvani.

Quickly changing gears from the brisk *Vatapi*, they seemed to have all the time in the world for *Janani Ninu Vina*, a *Vrutham*, preceded their *Rakshamam Charanagatham* in *Naata*. The sub main was the unforgettable Thyagaraga *kriti Bagaayanayya* in *Chandra Jyothi*. A spirited *Raghu Vamsha Sudhai* in *Kadana Kuthuhalam* bridged the sub main to the main *Todi* of the event. Always engaging, the duo thrives negotiating the entire



gamut of *Ragam Todi*. Unlike most duo singers who appropriate a single *raga* for elaboration, the broth-

ers have made it a style to engage in a constant musical dialogue. At the finale, while Sree Krishna

The second day's concert organised by Kalasagaram witnessed a beautiful performance by Trichur Brothers

Mohan roams the highs of *Todi* (equivalent to Bhairavi in Hindustani), Ram Kumar Mohan tugs into the lower levels with a voice gifted or trained for the purpose. Even as they finished their first *Charana*, the voices seemed to raise as a direct plea to the Almighty.

*Baddu Thappaga Bhajiyinchu Bhakta Paalanamu Seyu* from *Kadanuvarkiri* was the take for *Neravu*. The listeners could not miss the big brother applauding the younger one for navigating through the inexplicable nuances of *Todi* (Phrygian Mode-invested music) while Sree

Krishna played with the *Maa* with *Madhyam* in his *Swara Kalpana*, Ram played along with *Niin Nishaada*. The main *kriti* occupied over an hour of signing, followed by an amazing *Tani* by Trichur R Mohan on the midangam and Kovai Suresh on Ghatam. Throughout the concert, the duo had wonderful support from Sayee Rakshith on the violin.

The concert concluded with a *mangalam* of Ramadasu in *Navroz* before which the pleasant evening had the brothers rendering a *Sai bhajan* and a *kriti* of Swati Tirunal in Hindi *Jamana Kinare Pyarelal*.