



## **JAZZ NOTES, a Source of Quotes**

*The Jazzmandu Reporter engages in informal chats with musicians, meets with Jazzmandu participants, jazz fans and music enthusiasts and collects a few interesting Jazz Notes before and during the festival.*



22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011 – Gandharvas are traditionally the musician caste in Nepalese society. After opening the show at the Jazz Bazaar, Bukun Gandharva, Sanu Kancha Gandharva, Shyam Gandharva and Shalik Gandharva sat down for a short chat with the Jazzmandu Reporter.

**Jazzmandu Reporter: How do you think people react to your music nowadays?**

**Bukun Gandharva:** Not everyone likes it. Lots of people don't understand it. It makes me sad, but my work as a musician is to cry to make others laugh. Gandharvas used to be in every corner of the country, but nowadays few people like the Gandharvas' music. There are no travelling musicians in our villages today. We fear our ways will be lost. We keep going because we think this is what would make our fathers and forefathers happy

**Shyam Gandharva:** Very often there is no respect for our traditions. In the past the musician caste was disrespected, and though it is getting better now, we still feel often discriminated against.

**Jazzmandu Reporter: What do you think needs to be done to keep Nepali folk music alive?**

**Shyam Gandharva:** The government should help us to keep our traditions alive. There is some support from the government, but there should be a lot more. Nepali people need to understand the value of their traditions and protect them.

**Jazzmandu Reporter: How did you feel presenting your music at Jazzmandu?**

**Bukun Gandharva:** We liked it. It is good we got to play. We get to play some music, make some money, buy some rice to eat at home.

**The next band was about to play and they turned their attention to the stage it was better to let them enjoy a different type of music....**

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