



24 October 2011

Surya Nepal
Jazzmandu 2011
orchestrated
another

unforgettable evening, this time with Jazz at Patan at the Patan Museum. Under a starry sky in a courtyard of the historical palace building, Jazzmandu artists joined Nepali classical musicians to play a series of



improvisational pieces based, working both with jazz standards and with Eastern classical ragas. Jazzmandu bands Bconnected, Window Seat, Neighbourhood and the Cadenza Colletive joined renowned Nepali masters Robin Lal on Tabla, Suresh Raj Bajracharya on Sarod, and singer Gurudev Kamat.

The spectacular venue was a constant topic for comment. "It's so beautiful this place, the spiritual vibes...it's wonderful. I'm speechless," said Neighbourhood drummer Sebastian Ågren. "We love Nepal and can't believe we are leaving so soon. We'll be back!"

Meanwhile, the music onstage did full justice to the venue. International musicians took turns on their instruments while brass musicians from all the bands combined to form a mini brass orchestra. But the limelight belonged to the Eastern classical masters, and they commanded the attention of both the audience and fellow musicians with spectacular solos and intricate interplay between the instruments, generating an

JAZZ at PATAN

introspective atmosphere that was perfect for the palace courtyard.



Much of the night's music aimed at facilitating cultural exchange and using the magic of improvised music to allow musicians from all over the world to come together to learn. "It's my first time playing with Eastern Classical musicians. It's a very nice experience. It's magical to exchange and mix between cultures. This for me is music," said drummer Yoann Julliard of Bconnected. The unique musical dialogue was best characterized by an extended three-way percussion call and response between Robin Lal on table, "Cicco" Ciccone of Bconnected on congas, and a procession of drummers from all the Jazzmandu bands. Passing the rhythmic line between tabla, Latin percussion and jazz drums, the



percussionists tried to follow, upstage, and surprise each other to the raucous delight of the audience. Speaking after the show, Suresh Raj Bajracharya hailed Jazzmandu's spirit of musical fusion. "I've played at Jazzmandu many times with many musicians. For me the greatest thing is meeting other musicians, and I really enjoy playing with them. It's like heaven," he said.

For the audience, the experience was just as memorable. "We saw a Jazzmandu brochure in the guest house so we decided to come with my friends," said Mar, a Spanish visitor

to Kathmandu. “It was amazing! I really enjoyed it!” she added.

Jazzmandu 2011 Reporter
Roman Gautam