



THE FINE PRINT

Memorial fund

A memorial fund has been established for Irene Castellano at the First National Bank under "Irene Castellano Memorial Fund." All donations will be greatly appreciated. For more information, please call (719) 846-9881.

Narcotics Anonymous

Narcotics Anonymous will meet from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. on today at the United Presbyterian Church, 801 San Pedro, in the basement. For more information, call Eric (719) 846-0754 or Vincent 846-9999.

Ave Maria Shrine

A special Mass will be held at Ave Maria Shrine at 11 a.m. tomorrow. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Trinidad Art League

The Trinidad Art League will hold its monthly meeting at 10 a.m. tomorrow, at the Corazon Gallery, 149 E. Main St.

THS '68 Reunion

The Trinidad High School Class of 1968 will be hosting a reunion on tomorrow and Sunday. If the THS Reunion Committee hasn't called you, please call (719) 846-3814 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Pro-Life Chain

A "Chain for Life" at the Wal-Mart exit, I-25 frontage road from 1-2 p.m. Sunday. All pro-life supporters are invited to this peaceful and prayerful event. Please do not park on shoulder and keep roadway clear. For information, call 846-7754.

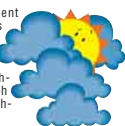
Thrift Store

The St. Vincent De Paul store will re-open on Monday. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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WEATHER WATCH

Today: A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 79. West-southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east-southeast.



Tonight: A 10 percent chance of showers

Trinidad audience delighted, by trio's classical Indian music

By MIKE GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

"Delightful, soothing, mesmerizing, tranquil, empowering, enlightening and culturally diverse" were all words being voiced by the Massari Performing Arts Center audience Wednesday night at Trinidad State Junior College after a two-hour concert performed by Atmic Vision.

It's probably the first time young Trinidad students and maybe their parents too have ever been exposed to classical Indian music. Judging by their responses, they were totally captivated, just like Atmic Vision audiences have been after playing before much larger New York City crowds.

The innovative West-meets-East Indian Classical Fusion Music trio play popular raga-based songs and compositions of India on their double bass, bansuri (bamboo flute) and tabla. The trio has performed at large venues in New York and in Colorado's smallest rural towns. The trio also gets students involved in interactive workshops as they did Wednesday with 200-300 kids at Trinidad Middle School.

The trio is comprised of double bassist Paul Erhard, professor of double bass at the university of Colorado College of Music in Boulder. Since 1999 he has pioneered performing Indian Classical music on the double bass, inspired by the beauty, intricacy and expressive quality of Indian music.

Flutist Annada "Butto" Prasanna Pattanaik is considered one of India's foremost classical bansuri artists and has performed as a soloist throughout India and Asia. He has also toured Europe many times and frequently performs in world music festivals.

Tabla drummer Muthu Kumar has been playing since age 5. He performs and records extensively in India and abroad in a wide variety of musical settings with more than 70 Bhajan, Ghazal, Indian classical and contemporary music recordings. He can be heard on numerous Indian film recordings.

Erhard said the Trinidad Middle School kids were among the best behaved and most receptive and responsive of any group of school kids they had conducted musical workshops for and performed in front of. "The workshop went really well, the kids were so responsive. We asked the kids if they had ever heard anything like this and they said, 'no, no.' Do you like it, 'yes, yes.'"

"The kids were really enticed by the different instruments they were



Atmic Vision's Tabla drummer Muthu Kumar, flutist Annada "Butto" Prasanna Pattanaik and double bassist Paul Erhard gave a crowd pleasing performance at the Massari Performing Arts Center on Wednesday night.

(Photo by Noah Simpson)

using and the way the sound was being produced, especially the tabla drummer. They really took to him," said Trinidad Middle School Principal Deana Dunford. "Several kids asked some really great questions afterward. They exposed our kids to something culturally they've never been exposed to before."

Dunford said it's her intention to try and bring something culturally different to her students whenever possible so they can learn about diverse cultures. "As I was standing on bus duty outside the building, the kids were coming up to me saying, 'that was wonderful, thank you so much for letting us experience that.'"

"Our kids were asking them to sing so they would sing, they were very responsive to them," said Dunford of her students.

This is Atmic Vision's third tour of mostly Colorado schools and venues with other stops in past years in the Northwest. Last year's nine-week tour included Colorado, including three repeat by popular demand engage-

ments at Denver's East High School, Wyoming and a month performing in New York City, Long Island, Staten Island, New Jersey and Connecticut. That East Coast tour included 30 workshops in 16 schools for more than 5,000 kids.

At their workshops, the trio performs, teaches the kids how to play their unusual instruments and instructs them on the intricacies of Indian music. Butto demonstrates how he plays his classical Indian raga notes and musical scale that is so different from the English standard of do, re, mi, fa, so, la, te do. Pretty soon, Erhard says he has the kids singing the Indian note names. Butto then plays the various notes on his flute.

A kid friendly and engaging Muthu takes over to play his tabla and has the kids singing short Indian song phrases to his rhythmic drumbeat. "The kids really get into it wherever we've gone," said Erhard. Muthu said the kids always express curiosity upon their first exposure to Indian rhythms and instruments but then seem to grasp it

fairly quickly.

"After the workshops we did last year in New York, the kids would come up to us and say, 'this is the greatest music they had ever heard. These kids all had i-Pods and could listen to anything they wanted and to tell us this was the best music they had ever heard, amazing,'" said Erhard. "I think it's the chemistry of what we do as a group as well as the multi-cultural dimension of it too."

Erhard said once the students have learned the new note scale, they know how to better follow them at the ensuing Atmic Vision concert.

The group's soothing, tranquil tones are of course, quiet in contrast to most of the relatively abrasive and loud hard rock, rap, hip-hop and country music favored by most kids today. "What we do really deals with feeling good, happy and peaceful," said Erhard. "At first, it's curiosity but then they're drawn into it because ultimately they all want to feel peaceful and these kids respond to it. They are in

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this environment with all of us together." As Erhard noted when one teacher told him after a New York concert, "they felt your honesty, that you were sincere about what you were doing."

"We care about the kids and for us, the greatest joy is in seeing the kids smiling," said Erhard. "That's our barometer of whether we have them or not. The younger kids at the (Trinidad) Middle School were really getting into it and telling the older kids to come on, look what we're doing."

Another barometer for Atmic Vision is that they have heard from school officials who say those students who

were at a workshop or concert were subsequently heard singing the new Indian songs they had learned for weeks afterward while walking down school corridors. "Something has clicked in them," said Erhard.

The bottom line for this music and this group, said Erhard, is that soothing can and should replace the stress in people's lives. "Our music really takes people down into their hearts and directly into their souls."

The trio next plays in Alamosa and La Jara before it's back to the big city in Denver again.