

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2009

Meera

Get drenched in some Hindustani

After a hectic season of Carnatic music, it is now time to listen to some soul-stirring notes of Hindustani music; before gearing up for the June Rock Out. March is a month when music lovers can immerse in and connect with the resonance of Hindustani music, thanks to the Gharana festival.

According to the organisers, the enthusiastic response by music lovers in the city has led to *Gharana* becoming an annual Hindustani classical extravaganza. The festival this time around, will start on March 23 at the Museum Theatre, with a Hindustani instrumental piece, which will have Ut Irshad Khan on the sitar and Rudra Narayan Kalyan on the tabla.

Irshad Khan, recognised as a child prodigy is one of the most versatile Indian musicians; not only because of his unparalleled mastery over the sitar-surbahar technique, but also because of his versatility in handling different genres, such as Dhrupad, Khyal, Tappa and Thumree. Irshad Khan says that he is performing in Chennai after a long gap

and is quite excited about the festival. "The city has a fantastic, culturally inclined audience. This time I am going to enthrall them with some extempore performances," he reveals.

The attraction for the second will be a performance by Pt Krishna Ram Choudhary

**HAPPENIN'
CITY**

and Hemant Raj Choudhary who will present an instrumental on

the shehnai. Pt Krishna Ram Choudhary is a disciple of famous vocalist late Pandit Mahadeva Prasad Mishra of the Benaras gharana and is known for his raga exposition, and higher techniques in shehnai playing.

Shanno Khurana's legendary voice continues to capture hearts even six decades after her first radio broadcast. Noted for her open-throated singing and power-packed renditions, she

has excelled in the entire gamut of Hindustani musical forms. So, get ready to soak in her vivid drut and taranas while listening to her dancing voice on the concluding day of the festival.

**STRINGS OF
MUSIC:**
Irshad Khan

SINDHU VIJAYAKUMAR