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Pure Music

Breaking language barriers

DHNS

Music has no boundaries and Agustin Carbonell El Bola, a leading Flamenco guitar player and composer from Spain, agrees to that.



Along with his troupe, which included José Manuel Muñoz Serrano and Ruben Lobato Quiros, he performed with Rajasthani musicians Sadiq Khan, Eklar Khan, Zakir Khan and Abdul Rasheed, to give the audience a taste of gypsy music recently.

The Spanish troupe also included Flamenco dancers Karen Lugo and Tamar Gonzalez who performed alongside the Kalbelia dancer Asha

Sapera. The artistes talked about the difficulty in collaborating with artistes from a different land, the experience of travelling in India and what they have learnt from each other.

El Bola said the performance was not at all difficult but the artistes from Jodhpur said otherwise. "It was little difficult in the beginning but after a while, we got used to it," says Sadiq Khan. Karen says that dancing with Asha was a pleasure even though Asha seemed to have some doubts in the beginning.

"Kalbelia is a different dance form and initially I thought I won't be able to dance with them but it became easier with time," says Asha.

Language was a major problem but that didn't bother the artistes. "We had an interpreter but then music needs no language," says El Bola. "Many a time, I was talking to them in Spanish," he says laughing.

El Bola says that since it was gypsy music, it became easier for them to collaborate. "Gypsy traditions have some common aspects and traditions," he says.

"Only the language in which we play is difficult, the music is the same," says Sadiq Khan. The artistes seemed to have bonded quite a while in the 10 days they had to practice together and even shared their art.

"I feel that the movements of hands and shoulders are quite similar in both the dances," says Karen. "We learnt a little bit about their music and how they use small breaks in their songs while we have a final ending," says Saqiq.

Since it was the first trip for the Spanish musicians to India, they all had some experiences to share about the country. "I didn't have any expectations but I was really curious about it," says El Bola. "But what I had imagined and what I finally saw was so different," he says.

Karen says she found the entire experience pure and authentic. "In Jodhpur, everything was so colourful and magical," she says. "And the artistes there were very easy to work with since they are really respectful," she adds.

Mention food and she bursts into a smile. "Well, I had difficulty with food only once but on the whole I really like Indian food," she says. "I knew that my roots are from here but after this visit, I am sure of it," says El Bola.