

NEWS

ARTS: *Bradford group to take part in millennium bash at London gallery*

Tate tribute for the Kala Sangam group



ART OF THE CITY:
Chitravina Ravikiran, a member of the Kala Sangam group who will be performing at the Tate Modern in London today.

by IAN MIDGLEY

T&A Reporter

A Bradford-based arts group has been hand-picked to perform in the spectacular Tate Modern art gallery today.

Asian arts group Kala Sangam is one of only five groups to be chosen to perform at the celebrated London gallery for the climax of the Millennium Commission's year of festivities.

The group, based at the Carlisle Business Centre, in Manningham, will join forces with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra to perform a piece of music called Global Echoes which is a fusion of eastern and western musical styles.

Ajit Singh, of Kala Sangam, said the group was looking forward to making the journey to London.

He said: "We're really excited - to be invited to perform at Tate Modern is brilliant. It's an amazing building and it should be a great experience."

"To have the Millennium Commission pick us from 2,000 projects that it has funded is a fantastic achievement."

"We're hoping that performing at the Tate will help raise our profile because there will be a lot of dignitaries and MPs there."

"The aim of Global Echoes is to bring people together through music and I think we've achieved that."

The Global Echoes project combines the talents of traditional Indian musicians such as Chitravina Ravikiran who plays the 21-stringed Chitravina instrument with the classical western sounds of the symphony orchestra.

Among the guests due to hear today's performance was Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport Chris Smith.

Chairman of trustees, Harry Atkinson, said: "It is a privilege for Kala Sangam and its partners the BBC Philharmonic to have been chosen from amongst so many wonderful groups and activities, to take part in the culmination of the Millennium festival."

"We look forward with enormous pleasure and excitement to this prestigious event at Tate Modern"

The Tate Modern gallery, which is home to the nation's modern art collection, was opened to critical and public acclaim earlier this year.

The gallery has been converted from the former disused Bankside Power station on the banks of the River Thames and is known for its vast entrance hall which used to house the building's huge turbines.

e-mail: ian.midgley@bradford.newsquest.co.uk