

Kala Sangam prepares for extravaganza

By Anjali Joseph

A Bradford-based company will bring Indian and English classical musicians together this weekend, for concerts in Newcastle and Manchester. Kala Sangam has commissioned the musical collaboration Global Echoes for its Millennium Festival celebrations.

The piece features Indian performing artist and composer Chitravina N Ravikiran, one of only five musicians worldwide to master the ancient 21-stringed chitravina. Shri Ravikiran began his musical career at the age of two. His grandfather was the renowned Gottuvadyam Narayana Iyengar, and Ravikiran's father, who was his guru, was also a chitravina master.

In Global Echoes, a ghatam (clay pot), tabla and players from the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra join the chitravina to mingle written and freshly improvised Western and



Ravikiran in rehearsal with BBC Phil members

Indian classical music. Shri Ravikiran commented: "The difference between the usual fusion type of concerts and Global Echoes is the tremendous effort that has contributed towards greater mutual awareness and apprecia-

tion... the interchange of ideas. Kala Sangam has created a concept which has not only produced exciting results with instant appeal, but also has solid values which can stand the test of time and thorough analysis."

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