

Music without borders

OFFBEAT Sunil Nedungadi and Sunitha Nedungadi have their own band in Indonesia.

G. PRABHAKARAN

Sunil Nedungadi, a mechanical engineer in Jakarta, got a telephone call recently requesting him to sing ghazals at a restaurant there. The ghazal concert was in honour of a distinguished guest, whose name was not revealed to Sunil.

The guest turned out to be the President of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf. General Musharraf sat through the full duration of the concert as Sunil sang ghazals of maestros like Mehdi Hasan, Ghulam Ali and Jagjit Singh.

General's appreciation

The President was extravagant in his appreciation of the concert. In fact, he put it down in writing as well, describing the concert as 'enchanting.'

Sunil, who hails from Cherpulassery in Palakkad district, required assiduous training to be a musician. On reaching Indonesia, he and his wife formed a troupe called 'Sahithi' in 1999. The accompanying artistes were mostly Indonesians. Gradually the troupe became popular, and was regularly invited to give concerts in various places.

Sunil sings in Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam and Bahasa Indonesia, a language spoken in Indo-



BRIDGING CULTURES: Singer Sunil Nedungadi, left, standing behind Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf.

nesia. Sunil, who is now in Palakkad to arrange his next music programme, says that Indonesians appreciate Indian culture.

Sunil and Sunitha have produced a few musical albums, which were well received by music lovers. In fact his first album, 'Nostalgia' was a big hit. 'Vez-

hambale,' a Malayalam album too did well. They also produced a music video for MTV called 'Tanha.'

Sunil is now trying to bring out music videos set in the background of temples and volcanoes in Indonesia. He says the album would be a rare blend of geography and music.

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wart Kunnakkudi Vaidyanathan did not live up to the expectations of the audience. M. Jayachandran, vocalist and music-composer, proved his mettle by blending old and new film songs.

On the penultimate day of the fete, the vocal recital of Shashi Kiran and P.Ganesh was quite inspiring.

Shashi Kiran explored the nuances of the main kriti 'Mokshamugalada' in raga Saaramathi. He was eloquently supported by Ganesh. Uduppi Balakrishnan was scintillating on the mridangam.

For the love of Kathakali

KATHAKALI Thodayam Kathakali Yogam has been at the forefront of efforts to popularise Kathakali in Kozhikode.

Two styles of singing

Indian classical music has been characterised by the presence of different *baanis* or *gharanaas*, each with its own identity that is preserved by faithful disciples. The two concerts organised by Nadopasana, Irinjalakuda, in connection with its anniversary celebra-