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Chili Beatz Entertains With Melodious Renderings

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BY A STAFF REPORTER

LOS ANGELES, CA - Chili Beatz, a Southland based musical group provided a feast of old and present day Hindi movie hits on Sept.20 at UCLA's Mc Gowan hall, here.

The group selected 14 golden oldies and 11 present day popular numbers. The start was with the aptly selected and well rendered 'Howrah Bridge' favorite 'Aayiye Meharban...' of rhythm king O.P. Nayyar, welcoming the audience. Other numbers from the same composer — the sensuous but a difficult number to sing 'Yeh hai reshme andhera..' and a fairly easy one 'Pukarta chala hoon main...' from 'Mere Sanam' were also quite effectively presented. The ever popular Kalyanji-Anandji number from 'Don', 'Khaike paan Banaraswala..' had the required pep and had the audience in raptures. The same singer would have done better, if the voice was a little soft and slow for the RDB-Majrooh-Kishore-Anamika song 'Meri bheegi bheegi si palkon ...'. The Manna Dey-Ravi- 'Waqt' number, 'Ai meri zohrazabeen...' was impressive too.

From the recent movie song selections, perhaps the notable were the A.R.Rahman-Shreya Ghoshal 'Guru' hit 'Nannaare Nannaare..' 'Pritam-Irshad-Shreya', 'Jab We Met' number 'Yeh Ishq haaye..' and the Jatin Lalit-Prasoon Joshi-Shaan-Fanaa song 'Chaand sifarish..' The other songs were also nicely done.

The name 'Chili Beatz' is intended to evoke visions of spicy hot tunes set to tantalizing rhythms, all served in a delectable foot-tapping package that caters to all musical tastes and palates. The group lived up to its name. The background scores were well orchestrated and the happy thing to note was that the lyrics were perfectly enunciated, which doesn't usually happen in several concerts. The wordings were correctly pronounced and the whole program was absorbing and when it ended, made the audience want more.

Band members Nitin Bajaj (Drummer), Prashant Rao (Vocalist), Narayanaswamy (Percussionist), Manjusha Joshi (Vocalist), Swati Kanaglekar (Vocalist), Niranjan Kanaglekar (Band leader and keyboardist), Jairam Agaram (Vocalist) Manoj Khatore (Lead guitarist and vocalist), Chandramohan (Vocalist) and Kunal Dovedy (Bass guitarist) are a disparate group of students and professionals with varied backgrounds who have been drawn together by their love of music. And that enthusiasm was infectious.

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