

SHADAJ GODKHINDI

- A Child Prodigy

"Artistes are born and not made". This expression is true of *SHADAJ* who is a kid of eight years. Music is in his blood. Incidentally, Shadaj is the full form of SA – The first note in Indian music-like Shadaj for SA, Rishabh for RE, Gandhar for GA, etc. *What an apt name indeed!*

He is the son of *SARIKA PRAVIN* and *PRAVIN GODKHINDI*, a reputed flautist of the country. *Shadaj* started playing flute at the age of 3 and gave his first public performance when he was just under 4 years. Apart from his father, his grandfather *Pandit VENKATESH GODKHINDI*, an eminent and a senior flautist of the country is training *Shadaj* with great love and affection. His ability in recognition of Swaras and various Taals and Ragas is astonishing. His brainwork in presentation of Ragas and Layakaari leaves music lovers spell bound.

Bansuri or the bamboo flute is his first love. He also loves singing and playing on drums. He is adept in tuning the electronic instruments accurately. Shadaj has the keenness to perform before the audience and win their appreciation and applause, an important quality of a well-groomed musician.

He has performed in *RAAGRANJINI*, a music based serial on ETV Kannada channel, which has made him a household name. Recently he also performed with the LAYA-LAHIRI group, an esteemed percussion ensemble led by Vidwan Anoor Ananth Krishna Sharma-a great Mridangam artiste. They were all praise for his rendition of the *Carnatic Raga kadanakutuhala*. He also has the rare credit of releasing a compilation of short stories for children penned by the well-known writer Smt. Sandhya Pai of Manipal Group. He has performed for reputed organisations like ISCKON, ABACUS, Ramakrishna Ashram, Ramchandrapura Mutt, Sringeri Mutt etc.

Shadaj is fortunate to be a part of this music family, probably the only one in the entire nation which has three generations of flautists performing together on the same stage, Shadaj being the third. *SWAR-SAGAR*, a DVD which features Shadaj's solo recital

apart from the 3 generation concert is one of the best selling albums in this part of the country. He has also been featured on almost all the local TV channels as an upcoming and bright musician. He also has the distinction of composing melodies for REAL ESTATE TV channel wherein he directed his father to play his compositions and the same was recorded live.

A lot is being expected from this young budding musician who connoisseurs predict will carve a niche for himself in the days to come.

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