

Deepika Gurdev

FEATURE

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SHWETA  
ZAVERI'S NOTES  
ARE TRAVELLING  
ACROSS  
CONTINENTS,  
AND  
EVERYONE'S  
ASKING FOR  
MORE!



Shweta  
Zaveri:  
A smile  
as sweet  
as her voice

# MAKING A SONG AND DANCE OF IT!

In 1993, she was honoured with the prestigious Pandit Jasraj Mitramandal Award, meant for young classical singers. Then, SPICMACAY, USA, honoured her for her work towards the promotion of Indian culture by opening four new chapters in the United States. In 1991, she also acquired the distinction of being the first Indian female classical musician to have performed in the jazz music festival at Vancouver

LONG after she stops singing, the musical notes linger. For those who have attended her solo performances, the experience has been one worth remembering. In her own words, "The achievements are hardly worth a passing mention," but her audience knows better.

Shweta Zaveri, 28, has two compact discs - 'Court Musicians' and 'Prarthana', as well as a classical audio cassette —

'Awakening' to her credit. She has travelled to most parts of the globe and has been composing music since the age of 11. Apart from being a performer, composer and music director, she has experimented with jazz musicians and more significantly, exploring the field of her choosing - 'khayal gayaki'. Though she sings 'thumris', 'tappas' and 'bhajans' with the same ease and precision, it is 'khayal gayaki' that interests her the most.

Though performances are her forte, her world of music stretches into the endless realms of experimentation. And experimentation, for her, means not just fusion of the music of the east and the west, "which is one aspect". Rather, its significance is in trying to lend new dimensions to the field in which she specialises. Not one to stick to a particular branch,

Shweta, who was born into a family where learning music and dance was appreciated, took to learning classical Indian music under Vilas Khandkar when she was just five years old. Alongside she also learnt under the tutelage of Pandit Jasraj. "This meant shuttling between Bombay and Ahmedabad. And I don't know how I could have managed it but for my family."