

'Revanta has his mother's dance genes'

Revanta Sarabhai held the audience hostage with his riveting performance, his first as a solo Bharat Natyam artist, at a programme organised by the Poona Music Society on Sunday

Chitra Nair | TNN



Pune: The breeze was warm and the moon had just shone in the dark Sunday sky, when Revanta Sarabhai, 24-year-old son of renowned danseuse Mallika Sarabhai, took centre stage at Ishanya for his solo debut in Bharat Natyam. What was the occasion? Well, nothing, Revanta says, adding, "I was invited by the Poona Music Society. So, here I am!"

The performance titled 'Celebrations' started at 7 pm sharp and continued for a little over an hour, ending with a thunderous applause, which took quite some time to die down. From

kids to the elderly to foreigners, the performance kept everyone glued to their seats.

Revanta performed about five pieces in all, out of which the 'Padam' — a devotional song, deserve special mention. Revanta depicted Shiva's cosmic dance at the golden temple of Chidambaram, which had left the whole world trem-

bling and the Ganga overflowing. The dancers' energy and expressive body language, with the live music, entranced the audience.

The quartet of Jayan Nair (vocalist), P. Rajesh on the flute, Shajish Rajan on the violin and Palini Velu on the 'mridangam', deserve special mention as perfect musical harmony

is crucial to the success of any dance show. "We had a wonderful time today. This is the first time that Revanta performed and I'm glad I could be a part of the show. I have had the opportunity to perform with Mallika Sarabhai earlier," said Nair.

As members of the audience fell short of adjectives, the general mood was one of great satisfaction. Anuradha Lokapur, a member of the audience and also an exponent of Bharat Natyam, was only too pleased that she decided to come for the show. "This was an absolutely wonderful performance for a solo debut. He has his mother's dance genes, the way he carries his shoulders are a perfect example of that," said Lokapur, who has seen both Mrinalini and Mallika Sarabhai perform. She added that since Revanta has a bit of a background in both theatre and contemporary dance, it only helped him in getting the right expressions.

"It is wonderful to see a pure form of classical dance without any dilution like we normally see today. The musicians were superb. Rather than pure Carnatic music we have more and more people performing to Hindustani classical and so this made for a great change," added Lokapur.

As for Revanta, his dressing room was overflowing with people congratulating him. "I was a bit nervous. But I'm happy that it went well and the response has been great," he said.