

The DAGAR BROTHERS believe that TV reality shows cannot determine the success of a SINGER

A classic example



→ Following the tradition: Nafeesuddin & Aneesuddin Dagar with Indira Parikh

Sukirt D Gumaste

“WE sing for God and for ourselves. The presence of audience leaves us unaffected during a performance. Music runs in our blood and we live for it,” echo Nafeesuddin and Aneesuddin Dagar, ardent followers of *dagarvani dhrupad*, the oldest style of classical music in northern India.

Recently, Dagar brothers interacted with the students and faculty of FLAME (Foundation for Liberal and Management Education) where they expressed their thoughts about the richness of Indian classical music, reality shows and the stiff competition that music faces today.

Nafeesuddin and Aneesuddin Dagar are the sons of renowned *dhrupad* master Ustad Sayeeduddin Dagar, the youngest of the seven Dagar brothers, who has been based in Pune since 20 years now. They are the 20th generation of the Dagar family; they have been successful in maintaining one tradition of classical music – *dhrupad*.

For the uninitiated, *Khyal* and *dhrupad* are the two genres of Indian classical music. Supposedly, *dhrupad* is one of the most difficult forms. “To categorise music as ‘difficult’ and ‘easy’ is com-

pletely baseless. Any art form is difficult till you don’t learn and practice it,” say the duo.

The musicians express worry about commercialisation and the increasing competition in the field of music. Both slam the course of television reality shows in promoting new talents. They explain, “People participate in these shows and competitions for cash prize and fame. We have seen several contestants depressed after losing in a competition. Singers want to establish their space in the industry in no time. What is their future no one knows? Only those singers will survive who have a strong

base. Why do you think legends like Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle are still everybody’s favourites?”

And when does one discover the real

essence of music in his/her life, we ask and the duo replies, “The awakening happens after the age of 25 and maturity in music comes only after you turn 40. The journey in the ocean of music is never ending. It’s up to you how deep you can go.”

After refusing several offers from Bollywood, the musician brothers want to live up to their Guru’s expectations. They reveal, “We don’t want to compromise art for money or fame.”

Living
it up