

Diwali Guests Enjoy Music of Chili Beatz

BY IRENE GUPTA

AGOURA HILLS, CA: They had promised it would be a memorable Bollywood musical night and they lived up to their word all the way through the evening belting out one foot tapping number after the other. From golden oldies to Rahul Dev Burman, to A.R. Rehman and Shankar Ehsan and Loy, they had it all. The Chili Beatz Diwali Night held at the Canyon County Club here on Oct. 28 presented a wide range of danceable Bollywood music that had the guests on their feet almost from the word go.



Chili Beatz is a Los Angeles based band specializing in Bollywood music. The band members are "an eclectic bunch of individuals" from various walks of life with a passion for music. Not only do they come from different professions and backgrounds the age range is also wide. While some are forty plus a couple are still high school students.

The group members have been performing for the last 10 years as part of the music-medley segment of the annual Archana program sponsored by the India Friends Association. "In late 2005 we decided to take it one step further and launched the band," said drummer Nitin Bajaj. And there seems to be no looking back.

The kind of excitement that the band has created in its two years was evident from the crowd of nearly 300 that came to watch the band perform.

The evening began with a mix of softer songs: male vocalist Chandramohan began by singing "Chand Sifarish" from 'Fanaah'. Then it was "Mitwa" from 'Alvida Na Kehna' and "Chup Chupke" from 'Bunty Aur Babli' that had the crowd clapping with joy. But after that it was the dance floor that beckoned the guests as Chili Beatz vocalists sang one hit after the other ably accompanied by the rest of the band led by Nirananjan Kanaglekar.

The music fiesta that the band dished out also included dances by three young ladies Chandana, Anita and Archana who gyrated to the "Spirit of Rangeela" and "Hai Ishq To Gale Lagale."