

REPORT FROM THE MUSIC/PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

The last year was a bit quiet for the GMS. Hectic lifestyles by newly wed couples coupled with health problems of others, really made its impact on the slight decline of the otherwise bubbling GMS outfit. However, we all have marched on as usual and managed to get our GMS practices running. We also have done our annual St Francis Xavier feast mass in conjunction with the GOA and I must praise the GMS members that helped out in the singing/playing without myself for a change.

Our major event of the year was the jazz workshop which generated great interest amongst fellow musicians and it resulted in some wonderful performances of both seasoned and young musicians alike. Great work by the golden Rebello family who put all efforts to ensure the program was a success with the help of the GOA.

Today, it is not too common to see that any major Goan function is graced with normal pop/rock/hindi music and we cannot blame anyone for that. But it is my firm belief that the GMS should and must encourage the rich Goan cultural heritage alive wherever and whenever we can. A mando in a private party, some Goan duets amongst musicians, etc go a long way to expose this great cultural tradition we are in a good position to preserve over the years to come.

For this, I thank the GMS Ensemble singers and musicians alike and the committee and volunteers who keep the Goan musical flag flying high in London. I will always be there for the GMS and Goan culture wherever I am.

Best wishes,

Joao Paulo Cota