

Rita Sahai Wins County Women's Hall of Fame Award

By Jennifer Newell, Special to India-West

Mar 08, 2013

Rita Sahai, acclaimed composer, performer and teacher of Hindustani classical music, has been selected as the 2013 "Culture and Art" inductee to the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame.

The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame will celebrate its 20th anniversary by honoring ten new inductees at the luncheon.

"Each of these outstanding inductees contributes to life in our community in ways that help make Alameda County a place that is second-to-none in terms of its vibrant culture and the rich diversity," said Alameda County administrator Susan S. Muranishi, an event co-chair.

Sahai is the director of the Hindustani Music Ensemble at UC Davis, administrates her own school OSMJ music, and contributes to her community by lecturing and performing for schools, hospitals and non-profit organizations.

Sahai's musical virtuosity has garnered her many awards in India and the United States, including the Isadora Duncan Award for Musical Excellence.

Her commitment to honoring multiculturalism and the environment has led the Indian American musician to create Vasundhara "An Ode to Mother Earth," her 40-voice multicultural choir offered as a unified prayer to evoke our awe and love for the earth and for our fellow human beings.

Such a large-scale choir was born from Sahai's belief that "music is the universal language, the mission of Vasundhara is to bring healing to our world."