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When words and music are in sync

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BANGALORE: When words come easy and flow in a rhythm, there's a song in every heart. With this as the context for a discussion on whether words and popular music go together, Day 2 of Lekhana was in tuneful swing.

Finding this rhythm comes with how musicians connect with the written word and the tune and strike a chord with listeners. of connoisseurs. As ace musician **Bruce Lee** Mani of the band Thermal and a Quarter says, "It takes about 15 years of writing and composing songs to discover who you are."

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References to the musician's context are floating around. "You can snatch things from out of thin air," says Radha Thomas of UNK and Ensemble that goes by her own name.

And words gathered momentum in sync with the underlying context of the fest - writing for the spoken word. When these words are in sync with the world around, signature tones and phrasing emerge. "It's implicit from the word go, for you can recognize a Clapton song within the first 10 seconds. It's stamped with his signature and, of course, has taken years of committed work for him to get where he is," explains Bruce Lee.

The stamp of star musicians is resonant down the years. "Just as **Pink Floyd** never wrote love songs and the **Beatles** never knew they were allowed to write about things other than love," says Sanjay Iyer, who moderated the discussion.

And in the **YouTube** era, youngsters gel with rhythms from the musical melange of New Age mixes. "AR Rahman, for instance, captures these listeners with his catchy tunes," says music director Poornachandra Tejaswi. Vasu Dixit of Swarathma fame took the mood to another level of soulful music with an unplugged rendition of 'Pyasi hoon meen tumko bulake'.

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