



Band that binds

PAROMITA PAIN

These youngsters formally trained in music, live their passion by conducting shows.

Oxxygen, the fusion music rock band was formed when the band's keyboardist Girinandh met drummer Prithvi at the P.S.B.B. organised inter school cultural meet, *Reverberations*, where the latter had won the best drummer award. They started jamming up and recorded a demo disc with six tracks.

Today, a seven-member band, consisting of Girinandh on the keyboard, Harish (for classical keyboard), Suresh on flute, Karthick on violin, Ramana on Mridangam, Anirudh on Kanjira, and Prithvi on drums, the band successfully overcame hurdles like board exams to hit the floors of the Digi Track Studio, Chennai, and release their album recently.

A new meaning

Earlier called Silverstorm, the band's name was changed to Oxygen, as they believe music is as essential to life as oxygen. Their music is for those who like fusion music. Less than a year old and mainly an instrumental fusion band, they have vocals in only one song in their album called *Oxygen — Breath Of Music*.

K.N. Shashikiran has lent his voice for the track, which is a



In Harmony...

new version of *Vatapi Ganapathim* backed up with drums and guitars to give it the fusion effect.

Recently, Pradeep has been roped in to sing the ragas, which are a part of certain songs, but essentially they remain an instrumental band. Their first performance was unforgettable as they were going to perform without practising for nearly a month. They were extremely nervous.

But the show was a grand success. Their best presentation, till date, was the World Music Day show held at the Narada Gana Sabha.

Their greatest strength is being together as a band and understanding one another perfectly.

Ashok Kumar is their manager and takes care of their performance schedules and other details.

Besides music, their hobbies include cricket, which Prithvi doesn't like, preferring squash instead. While Girinandh and Harish are fusion freaks, Karthick, Ramana and Anirudh like classical music.

Formally trained in music, managing studies and music is easy. They study during the weekdays and meet during the weekends. But, big projects mean meeting up for some time during weekdays too. Individual accolades have come their way but none yet as a band, and as Prithvi says, "We are hoping that we will get some soon."

They are young and they are musically inclined. Their inspiration is their teachers and gurus. Recording new material, which will feature in a compilation fusion album called *Clarity And Confusion*, they aren't sure if they will be performing live anytime soon. ☺