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Putting melody on canvas

Dr Thota Tharrani paints music with colours and brush swirls in his new show

Padmashri Dr Thota Tharrani is well-known for translating ideas into settings in his role as an award-winning art director. Whether it is recreating Mumbai's slums in Chennai's Venus Studio, replicating the Madurai Meenakshi Temple or getting a 19th century rail engine to actually run on the tracks in Los Angeles, he has done it all for films.

As an artist, Tharrani has translated his aesthetics into reality. At his upcoming city show, he depicts music on the canvas. Titled *Symphony*, it is a collection of

paintings wherein the muse is music, predominantly classics from musicians Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi, Brahms, Holst and Chopin.

"There are notes emanating from a hundred instruments at the same time but I interpret the sounds and the mood with my own visual language," he says about the paintings that have swirls almost like musical notes.

"Each of Tharrani's works has an unsaid saga behind it," feels Uzma Irfan of Sublime Galleria. She cites his oeuvre, which has works in almost every medium — from pencils to chalks, crayons and pastels, acrylic, water colours, ceramic, paper, blackboards and sun mica as reason for his popularity. Then there is the range. From paintings to murals, paper collages to wooden montages and sculp-

tures, he has not restricted himself as an artist, she points out, having previously displayed his sculpture at her gallery.

Tharrani sums up his works by saying that he prefers to make the viewers understand his paintings rather than creating mysteries. In the case of *Symphony*, there is only music. No mystery at all.

Symphony, Dec 13 – Jan 13,
11 am – 8 pm, Sublime Galleria

