

# simpliCITY

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The Indian EXPRESS ■ SATURDAY OCTOBER 11, 2008

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 11, 2008



PHOTO: KAMLESHWAR SINGH

# 'And blow the Alphorn once again for me'

## Eliana Burki plays the sound of rocky mountains

JASKIRAN KAPOOR

**T**OGETHER, they are like this mini world conference. Arnaud Francelet with a French finesse, Sam Siegenthaler and his German strings, Anthony LoGerfo's American beat, Adriano Regazzin with an Italian verve, and at the helm, a petite Eliana Burki blowing in a fresh wind from the Swiss Alps, with her Alphorn, the Swiss national instrument. For the uninitiated, the alphorn is a massive horn carved from solid softwood. It's a traditional instrument played only by men and is passed down from one generation to another. "No music school teaches how to play one," tells Eliana who was introduced to it by her teacher at the age of 5. At eight, she decided that she didn't like the sound of it. "It needed more power, more energy," and so, came about the improvisations - jazz, blues, rock, pop, and a band that plays it all. "There was friction initially, with the traditionalists, but I was sure of the sound," Eliana, now 24, chose her own 'rocky' musical path. Out went the traditional costume and basic limited sound. In came a fresh wind of funk, latino and jazz rhythms, concerts all over the world, even an Olympic performance at Sydney, and now, her first album, Heartbeat, produced by David Richards who's done work for Queen, David Bowie and Chris Rhea.

In town for a performance courtesy STEPS and UT Tourism, Eliana's group members define the alphorn's sound as a 'healing touch, a meditative style that can leave you in a trance.' Does it sell? "Unlike the teen pop culture, this is music with integrity, with soul, one which will make you go to the record shop and pick a CD," says Anthony on the drums. While he's travelled with bands like UB40, Bob Marley's old group and Gwen Stefani, Samuel, who is addicted to the guitar, and Arnaud, born with a bass, tell us how this is the greatest job ever. "Travel and play music," laughs Adriano on the keys. It sure is!