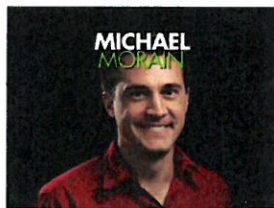


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Michael Morain's Behind the Scene, Oct. 19

Michael Morain, mmorain@dmreg.com Published 11:00 p.m. CT Oct. 18, 2014 | Updated 11:10 p.m. CT Oct. 18, 2014



World music: Every year, World Food Prize chief Kenneth Quinn tries to find awards-ceremony musicians who reflect in some way the cultural heritage of each laureate.

So who sang Thursday to honor Sanjaya Rajaram, the Indian scientist who worked for decades with farmers in Mexico? Answer: Kavitah Shah, who was born to Indian parents in New York and majored in Latin American studies at Harvard. The jazz singer sang two songs at the ceremony: an Indian folksong she learned from her mother, and an Incan-style song inspired by a poem by Pablo Neruda.

She wrote it herself during a trip to a potato-producing valley in Peru.

Quinn first heard Shah on National Public Radio driving home from work and pulled quickly to the side of the road to write down her name.

This year's ceremony also featured Las Guitarras de Mexico and the Iowa Youth Chorus.

"Graphic" novels: Two underappreciated segments of the literary world are coming to town next weekend by coincidence. The Comic Book I-Con sets up its stacks of books and merch (and costumes) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center. Meanwhile, in a steamy gymnasium across town ... a handful of romance writers will sell their books at the Small Business and Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the AIB College of Business.

Find details about the events at www.iowaeventscenter.com (<http://www.iowaeventscenter.com/>), and www.aib.edu/craft (<http://www.aib.edu/craft>), respectively.

Hey, mayors: The Bloomberg Philanthropies group just announced plans to grant three cities \$1 million apiece for temporary public art projects. The applications are eligible to any city of at least 30,000 and must be submitted by the city's mayor or chief executive by Dec. 15.

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