

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC LEGEND

L. SHANKAR

L. Shankar is widely considered a living legend, a pioneer and a musical genius by his peers who hold him in the highest esteem. As a prolific international touring artist, he has released 29 solo albums and has worked on soundtracks for award-winning films, documentaries & TV series. With a career spanning decades, Shankar has earned international acclaim through his award-winning solo projects and collaborations with industry icons & esteemed musicians worldwide.

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L.Shankar



theshenkar



Shenkar



LShankarOfficial

“L. Shankar, the Indian violin virtuoso whose career has spanned over five decades, remains one of the most audacious architects of world music, forging bridges between Carnatic traditions and the restless energies of jazz, rock, and pop with a double-necked violin that sings like an entire orchestra.”

Asia News

“His solo albums have always drawn not only enormous interest from fans and critics alike but also showcase the collaborative spirit that is integral to Shankar’s art.”

All About Jazz

“Two Shankars, one Ravi Shankar and one L. Shankar are probably the best known Indian names in world music. One familiarised the Hindustani sitar, the other took Carnatic raga music through his double violin and voice to every known idiom from classical, to rock and roll, to jazz to EDM creating music.”

Times Of India

LATEST RELEASES

In 2024, Shankar released two world music albums—Full Moon in September and Over the Stars in August—followed by the star-studded pop-rock album Answers in 2025.

ANSWERS

L. Shankar
2025



#3 WORLD MUSIC
CHARTS EUROPE

FULL MOON

L. Shankar
2024

OVER THE STARS

L. Shankar
2024



DISCOGRAPHY

SOLO ALBUMS, EP & SINGLES

Answers (Album) Pop Rock	2025
Full Moon (Album) Classical Indian, World	2024
Over The Stars (Album) Classical Indian, World	2024
Thinking About You (Single) Pop Rock	2023
Day To Live (Single) Pop Rock	2023
Christmas From India (Album) World Music	2021
Chepleeri Dream (Album) Prog Rock	2020
In My Heart (Single) Rock	2020
Face To Face (Album) Prog Rock	2019
Radiotronics (EP) EDM	2016
Transcend (Album) EDM	2015
On My Mind (Single) EDM	2015
Champion (Album) EDM	2014
Champion (Single) EDM	2014
You've Shown Me (Single) EDM	2014
The Revelation (Album) EDM	2013
Lighthouse (Single) EDM	2013
In A Box (Album) EDM	2012
Open The Door (Album) Pop Rock	2007
Udistam (Album) New Age	2006
Celestial Bodies (Album) World, Pop Rock	2004
One In A Million (Album) Pop	2001

Shankar's versatility as a musician is reflected in his ventures into various musical genres. In addition to his classical albums, he has released globally acclaimed pop, rock, and EDM albums and has worked on soundtracks for award-winning films and TV series.

SOLO ALBUMS, EP & SINGLES

Eternal Light (Album) Classical Indian, World	2000
Enlightenment (Album) Classical Indian, World	1999
Raga Aberi (Album) Classical Indian, World	1995
Soul Searcher (Album) Classical Indian, World	1990
M.R.C.S (Album) World Music	1989
Pancha Nadai Pallavi (Album) Classical Indian, World	1989
Nobody Told Me (Album) Classical Indian, World	1989
Galaxy (Album) Classical Indian, World	1989
Eye Catcher (Album) Pop Rock	1987
Do What You Do (Album) Pop Rock, Synth Pop	1986
Epidemics (Album) Pop Rock, Synth Pop	1985
Song For Everyone (Album) New Age, World	1984
Himalaya (Single) Pop Rock	1982
Vision (Album) New Age, World	1983
Who's To Know (Album) Classical Indian, World	1980
Touch Me There (Album) Pop Rock	1979
Violin Ecstasy (Album) Classical Indian	1978

WITH SHAKTI

Natural Elements (Album) World Music	1977
Handful Of Beauty (Album) World Music	1976
Shakti (Album) World Music	1975

WITH VIOLIN TRIO

The Violin Trio (Album) Classical Indian	1978
The Violin Trio (Album) Classical Indian	1975
Violin Prodigies (Album) Classical Indian	1972

GROUP ALBUMS (CARNATIC)

The Giants of Carnatic Music (Album) Classical Indian	1980
With the Legendary Alathur Srinivasa Iyer (Album) Classical Indian	1980
Pancharathna Krithis (Album) Classical Indian	1974
Pallavi (Album) Classical Indian	1973

Shankar performing with Wendy & Lisa at the Avalon Hollywood nightclub in LA, California on April 20, 2009.



FILMOGRAPHY

Fear The Walking Dead 2015
Vocals

Heroes Reborn - TV series 2015
Vocals

Heroes - TV series 2006–2009
Vocals

The Passion of the Christ 2004
Composer, vocals, double violin

Hidalgo 2004
Double violin

Born into Brothels 2004
Vocals, double violin

Rabbit-Proof Fence 2002
Double violin

Queen of the Damned 2002
Vocals, double violin

Ali 2001
Vocals, double violin

Xena: Warrior Princess 1995
Violin

Secret World Live 1994
Dublin violin, backing vocals

Jennifer 8 1992
Vocals, double violin

White Sands 1992
Vocals, double violin, percussion

Bombay & All That Jazz 1992
Co-producer, Vocals, double violin

Robin Hood 1991
Vocals, double violin

Jacob's Ladder 1990
Vocals, violin, double violin

The Last Temptation of Christ 1988
Vocals, double violin

“My friend Shankar is an exceptional musician, and it’s been a pleasure to work with him both on his own music and Peter Gabriel’s.”

Tony Levin

L. Shankar pictured with Peter Gabriel, Stewart Copeland and Peter Hammill during the rehearsal for the third night of the WOMAD festival in 1982.



INTERNATIONAL MUSIC LEGEND

L. SHANKAR

BIOGRAPHY



L. Shankar, born in Madras, was exposed to Carnatic music and other styles from an early age. He started studying the vocals at the age of two then violin at five then mridangam at seven. At the age of seven, Shankar gave his first public concert, at a Ceylonese temple, Nallur Kandaswamy. In 1958, Shankar and his two older brothers, formed the Violin Trio along with Palghat Mani Iyer which made history in the 20th century Carnatic music scene. He gained a large following performing with some of the most eminent names in Carnatic music, playing all through India, and was highly sought after by legendary musicians such as Chembai Vaithyanatha Baghavatar, Palghat Mani Iyer, Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, Alathur Srinivasa Iyer and many others.

In 1973, John McLaughlin and Shankar formed the band Turiyananda Sangeet and they co-wrote all the music for it. The band also included Ramnad Raghavan on the mridangam. Zakir Hussain was later added on tabla and the band name was changed to Shakti. Raghavan didn't stay with the project and T.H. Vikku Vinayakaram was added on ghatam for the remainder of those original Shakti days. The band toured extensively around the world. Shankar co-wrote all of the group's material with John McLaughlin, resulting in the release of three world music albums. According to Downbeat music magazine critic Lee Underwood, "All three are masterpieces, of which the deeply moving and technically astonishing Handful of Beauty will stand tall in recorded history for decades to come."

"Shankar and McLaughlin were the pillars of Shakti, one of the decade's most innovative musical groups"

Cash Box Magazine, 1979

BIOGRAPHY

He also performed extensively on his Indian classical tours with Zakir Hussain and Vinayakram that became a big hit globally. He recorded several classical albums with them featuring his groundbreaking Ragam Tanam Pallavi compositions in highly complex rhythmic cycles that were ahead of their time. He recorded 8 world music albums for the reputed German label ECM and toured extensively featuring renowned musicians such as saxophonist Jan Garbarek, Trilok Gurtu, Zakir Hussain, Kenny Wheeler, Don Cherry, Ed Blackwell and Naná Vasconcelos in many Jazz and world music festivals organized by his label ECM.



"Shankar's probably the best violinist in the world; he's really incredible"

Frank Zappa



Shankar is a one-of-a-kind musician venturing in different genres of music. Besides his numerous classical albums he has released worldwide several pop, rock, electronic dance music hit albums and videos including the musical composition of the 2005 Oscar winning documentary, "Born Into Brothels". In 1990, Shankar co-produced a one-hour BBC film directed by award winning director H.O. Nazareth. It was nominated as one of the best documentaries at the Cannes Film Festival. Shankar's work has been featured in the following films: "Queen of The Damned", "Ali", "Jennifer 8", "Robin Hood", "Jacobs Ladder" and more. Shankar's pop, rock, electronic dance music albums have featured guest artists such as Frank Zappa, Peter Gabriel, Phil Collins, Bruce Springsteen, Van Morrison, John Waite, Stewart Copeland (The Police), Ginger Baker, Toto, Jonathon Davis (Korn), Natasha Bedingfield, Pat Monahan (Train), Randy Jackson (American Idol) and Patrick Leonard (Madonna) amongst others.

Shankar's pop DVD, "One In A Million", became the number 1 DVD in the US spending 4 weeks on top of the U.S. Soundscan/Billboard charts. Shankar has also collaborated with Frank Zappa (who produced Shankar's solo record for Zappa Records), Talking Heads, Pete Townsend, Lou Reed, Marianne Faithful, Sting, Jeff Beck, U2, The Pretenders, Echo & The Bunnymen, John Lydon (Public Image Ltd.), George Harrison, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Dave Stewart, Pete Townsend (The Who), Jonathan Davis (Korn), Robert Trujillo (Metallica), Stephen Perkins (Jane's Addiction) and many more. Shankar has worked on numerous soundtracks including the Grammy award winning and controversial "The Last Temptation of Christ" by the legendary film maker Martin Scorsese. He co-wrote many tracks with Peter Gabriel and his vocals were featured in the movie. In 2004 Shankar, composed and performed vocals on Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ". His unmistakable haunting voice was heard all through the movie.

"Working with L. Shankar on this project has been a great experience. His compositions are very enjoyable to play, and his arrangements are always very interesting. I am very grateful and humbled to be part of this."

Chester Thompson



BIOGRAPHY

His solo recordings avoid entirely the excesses of fusion jazz. Instead, they pursue a plangent serenity that, when it reaches the heights ..., suggests a transcendence unheard in jazz "

The Washington Post



Additional special projects included invitations to perform at The Prince's Trust Rock Gala 1988 in England, The United Nations Peace Day Festival, and Nelson Mandela's 80th Birthday celebration. The rock extravaganza, Human Rights Now World Tour in 1988, featured Shankar's own group, who were joined in performance by Bruce Springsteen and Peter Gabriel, in addition to several other musicians. Shankar collaborated with the gifted duo Wendy & Lisa (Prince) on their original score for the NBC smash hit TV series "Heroes". He wrote all his vocal parts and was the featured lead vocalist on the theme and all episodes of "Heroes" and in the "Heroes-Reborn" TV series. His voice is featured on the recent hit TV show Fear the Walking Dead.

In 2020, Shankar released worldwide his critically acclaimed progressive rock album "Chepleeri Dream" by Cleopatra Records from which features internationally renowned superstars such as Jonathan Davis (Korn), Scott Page (Pink Floyd), Stephen Perkins (Jane's Addiction), Norwood Fisher (Fishbone), Tony Levin (John Lennon, Peter Gabriel), Chester Thompson (Phil Collins, Genesis), Josh Lopez, Zack Baird (Korn, Beyonce / Jay-Z). In August 2024, Shankar released *Over the Stars* with his dear friend and longtime collaborator on ghatam, Vikku Vinayakram—one of South India's greatest percussionists. The album also featured Vikku's son, the renowned percussionist Selvaganesh Vinayakram, and his grandson, Swaminathan Selvaganesh, both on kanjira. One month later, in September 2024, Shankar released *Full Moon*, a sequel to *Over the Stars*, this time featuring tabla maestro, Abhijit Banerjee. The album reached #3 on the World Music Charts Europe in 2025. According to music critic Angel Romero, "Each track reveals his mastery of both form and feeling, underscoring his lifelong commitment to expanding the expressive capacity of Indian classical music."

He released his latest star-studded pop-rock album in 2025 titled *Answers*, a collection of undeniably replay-worthy tracks that lead listeners through life's biggest questions and truths. The album is shaped by a core group of progressive rock musicians—some of whom Shankar first worked with over 35 years ago.

In 2026, Shankar was appointed Dean of the Swara Community Art Center in Malaysia. He resides in Malaysia and India in between tours, and is currently working on his solo album as well as a new collaborative album with Tarun Bhattacharya and Bikram Ghosh set to be released later in 2026.



"My friend Shankar is a legendary musician. An extraordinary vocalist, violinist and composer. I always had a great time working with him on Queen of the Damned, my 2 solo albums, my solo world tours and his solo albums. Don't forget to check out "Chepleeri Dream". I highly recommend it. It's awesome!"

Jonathan Davis (Korn)