

"One of the greatest musicians of all time." - X DOT 25 Music

PRESS KIT

L.SHANKAR

Vocalist | Violinist | Composer | Producer

L.Shankar (Shenkar) 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 28 solo albums and has worked on soundtracks for award-winning films, documentaries & TV series. With a career spanning decades, Shankar has sold over 100 million albums and has earned international acclaim through his award-winning solo projects and collaborations with industry icons & esteemed musicians worldwide.



L.Shankar



theshenkar



Shenkar



The Shenkar

"Grandmaster vocalist and violinist, L. Shankar...considered a living legend, has awed and delighted audiences all over the world live and with his albums"

Celebrity Zones

"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

"L.Shankar, an acclaimed virtuoso violinist, singer, composer and producer who has sold over ten million albums, is a musical pioneer. He embraces with equal ease three idioms of music: Indian classical, world music and pop/rock."

Hinduism Today

NEW RELEASES

In 2024, he released two world music albums: Full Moon in September and Over the Stars in August. As of January 2025, Full Moon has reached #3 on the World Music Charts Europe.



FULL MOON

L. Shankar

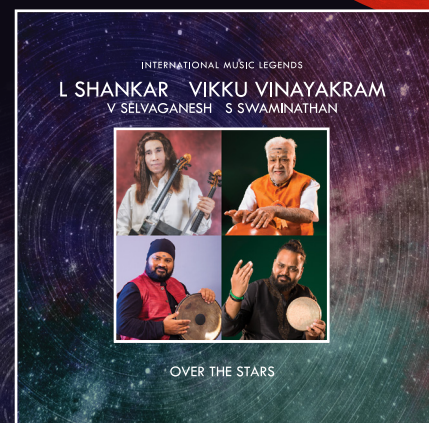
#3 WORLD MUSIC CHARTS EUROPE (JAN 2025)

Released on 20 Sept 2024

OVER THE STARS

L. Shankar

Released on 16 Aug 2024



DISCOGRAPHY

SOLO ALBUMS, EP & SINGLES

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

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

WITH SHAKTI

Natural Elements	1977
<i>(Album) World Music</i>	
Handful Of Beauty	1976
<i>(Album) World Music</i>	
Shakti	1975
<i>(Album) World Music</i>	

WITH VIOLIN TRIO

The Violin Trio	1978
<i>(Album) Classical Indian</i>	
The Violin Trio	1975
<i>(Album) Classical Indian</i>	
Violin Prodigies	1972
<i>(Album) Classical Indian</i>	

GROUP ALBUMS (CARNATIC)

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

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
Doublin 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.



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

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 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



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.

"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!"



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).

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**Jonathan Davis
(Korn)**