



PRESS KIT

L. SHANKAR

Vocalist | Violinist | Composer | Producer

L. Shankar (aka Shenkar) is widely considered a living legend, a pioneer and a musical genius by his peers who hold him in the highest esteem. Shankar has enthralled audiences and critics alike all over the world. A child prodigy who is a virtuoso vocalist, violinist, composer and record producer who has sold over 100 million albums through his solo projects and collaborations with other superstar musicians throughout the world.

For more info: www.lshankar.com

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

-Frank Zappa, BAM Magazine, October 5, 1979



PRESS

"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

"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

"Shankar's music is rich & melodic..."
SPIN magazine

"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

"Two hundred years from now L. Shankar may be idolized as the new Muthuswami Dikshitar."

Hinduism Today



VIEW ALBUMS



VIEW VIDEOS

BOOKING INQUIRIES

5-Piece Band - Classical & 'Shakti' Repertoire

L. Shankar, Vikku Vinayakram, V.Selvaganesh, Fazal Qureshi, Swaminathan Selvaganesh



A legendary line-up not to be missed with L. Shankar, alongside a supergroup of award-winning musicians, as they take you through a spellbinding performance of Shankar's iconic ragam tanam pallavis and complex rhythmic compositions, pulsating percussion solos, and beloved evergreen hits of Shakti, the groundbreaking world music group co-founded by Shankar.

2-Piece Classical Repertoire

L.Shankar + percussionist



Experience the artistry and virtuosity that define L. Shankar's legacy, as he presents his iconic ragam tanam pallavis and complex rhythmic compositions in a performance that pays homage to tradition while pushing artistic boundaries.

3-5 Piece Rock Band

L. Shankar + keyboard + drum/percussionist + guitar + bass



A pop & rock festival-favourite showcase in which L. Shankar delivers a powerhouse performance for listeners of all genres. Featuring tracks from his acclaimed albums that highlights Shankar's versatility as a vocalist, violinist and composer.

2-Piece EDM Repertoire

L.Shankar + DJ



Transcend the limits of sonic exploration with L. Shankar through his EDM performance, accompanied by a live DJ. From pulsating rhythms to soaring vocals and violin solos, this high-energy collaboration is guaranteed to bring crowd-stirring euphoria to any audience!

Masterclass with the Maestro: L.Shankar

Workshop & demo



Explore the brilliance of L. Shankar in a workshop led by the maestro himself. From vocal and all instrumental techniques to insights into his legendary career, this inspiring session offers participants of all ages and professional backgrounds a unique opportunity to learn from one of the most influential figures in the world of music.

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, L. Vaidyanathan and L. Subramaniam 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."

L. 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.



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L.S.HANKAR

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.



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).

Shankar is currently on a world tour with a supergroup featuring his longtime colleague TH Vikku Vinayakram (of the original Shakti group) and his son V. Selvaganesh (2024 Grammy winner), Fazal Qureshi (son of esteemed tabla player Ustad Alla Rakha) and Swaminathan Selvaganesh.

L. Shankar performing with Wendy & Lisa at the Avalon Hollywood nightclub in Los Angeles, California on April 20, 2009. Photos by Paul Drinkwater.



L. SHANKAR



DISCOGRAPHY

SOLO ALBUMS, EP & SINGLES

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.

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

FILMOGRAPHY

Fear The Walking Dead Vocals	2015
Heroes Reborn - TV series Vocals	2015
Heroes - TV series Vocals	2006–2009
The Passion of the Christ Composer, vocals, double violin	2004
Hidalgo Double violin	2004
Born into Brothels Vocals, double violin	2004
Rabbit-Proof Fence Double violin	2002
Queen of the Damned Vocals, double violin	2002
Ali Vocals, double violin	2001
Xena: Warrior Princess Violin	1995
Secret World Live Double violin, backing vocals	1994
Jennifer 8 Vocals, double violin	1992
White Sands Vocals, double violin, percussion	1992
Bombay & All That Jazz Co-producer, Vocals, double violin	1992
Robin Hood Vocals, double violin	1991
Jacob's Ladder Vocals, violin, double violin	1990
The Last Temptation of Christ Vocals, double violin	1988



GUEST ALBUMS & COLLABORATIONS

Adam Rudolph's Moving Pictures (1992) – Violin, vocals
Animal Logic's Animal Logic (1989) – Violin
Anthony Hindson and Friends' It's a Curious Life (1999) – Violin
Archie Shepp's Attica Blues (1972) – Violin
Artists United Against Apartheid's Sun City (1985) – Double violin
Bill Laswell's Deconstruction: Celluloid Recordings (1994) – Violin
Charly García's Cómo conseguir chicas (1988) – Violin
Chris Murphy's Luminous (2007) – Vocals
Clifford Thornton's Communication Network (1972) – Violin
Daryll Dobson's The Mind Electric (1986) – 10-string double violin
Echo & the Bunnymen's Porcupine (1983) – Strings
Egberto Gismonti's Circense (1979) – Violin
Fernando Saunder's Spin (1993) – Double violin
Frank Zappa's Everything Is Healing Nicely (1999) – Violin
Frank Zappa's Halloween (2003) – Violin
Gary Wright's Who I Am (1988) – Violin
Ginger Baker's Horses & Trees (1986) – Violin
Jai Uttal's Footprints (1990) – Vocals
James Newton Howard's Hidalgo OST (2004) – Double violin, Vocal
John McLaughlin's Guitar & Bass (2004) – Violin
John McLaughlin's John McLaughlin's Montreux concerts (2004) – Violin, arranger
Jonathan Davis and the SFA's Alone I Play (2007) – Vocal, Violin
Jonathan Davis's Black Labyrinth (2018) – Vocal, Violin
Lou Reed's New Sensations (1984) – Violin
Marianne Faithfull's Perfect Stranger: The Island Anthology (1998) – Double violin
Mark O'Connor's Heroes (1993) – double violin, composer
Maurice Jarre's Jacob's Ladder OST (1990) – Violin, vocals, performer, double violin
Material's Hallucination Engine (1993) – Violin (Electric)
Material's Seven Souls (1989) – Violin
Mercan Dede's Seyahatname (2003)
Midge Ure's Breathe (1996) – Vocals, double violin
Narada Michael Walden's Nature of Things (1985) – Violin
Percy Ensemble Jones' Propeller Music (1996) – Violin
Peter Gabriel's Blood of Eden (UK) (1994) – Violin
Peter Gabriel's Blood of Eden (US) (1993) – Violin
Peter Gabriel's Long Walk Home: Music from the Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002) – Double violin, Vocal
Peter Gabriel's Passion: Music for The Last Temptation of Christ (1989) – Double violin, vocals,
Peter Gabriel's Play the Videos (2004) – Vocal, double violin
Peter Gabriel's Secret World Live (1994) – Violin, vocals
Peter Gabriel's So (1986) – Violin, Vocal
Peter Gabriel's Up (2002) – Double violin



"My friend Shenkar 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)

"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

GUEST ALBUMS & COLLABORATIONS

Peter Gabriel's *Us* (1992) – Violin
Peter Gabriel's *OVO* (2000) – Violin, vocals
Peter Murphy's *Dust* (2002)
Phil Collins' *Face Value* (1981) (as Shankar)
Phil May and the Fallen Angels' *Fallen Angels* (2003) – Violin
Public Image Ltd.'s *Album/Compact disc/Cassette* (1986) – Electric violin
Queen of the Damned: *Music from the Motion Picture* (2002) – Vocals, double violin
Robin DiMaggio's *Blue Planet* (2001) – Vocal, Double violin
Ryuichi Sakamoto's *Beauty* (1990) – Violin
Sara Cosentino's *One's & Zero's* (1998) – Vocals, double violin
Sérgio Dias's *Sérgio Dias* (1980) – Violin, songwriting credit
Shadowfax's *Esperanto* (1992) – violin
SXL's *Into the Outlands* (1994) – Vocal, Electric violin
Swans' *The Burning World* (1989) – Violin
Talking Heads's *Speaking in Tongues* (1983) – Violin
The Human Abstract's *Midheaven* (2008) – Vocals
The Passion of the Christ *DST* (2004) – Composer, vocals, double violin
The Pretenders' *Get Close* (1986) – Violin
The Pretenders' *Pirate Radio* (2006) – Violin
The Wailing Souls' *All Over the World* (1992) – Violin
Tony Levin's *World Diary* (1996) – Vocals, double violin
Talking Heads's *Speaking in Tongues* (1983) – Violin
Trilok Gurtu's *African Fantasy* (1999) – songwriting credit
Trilok Gurtu's *Usfret* (1987) – Violin
Toto's *Falling in Between* (2006) (as Shenkar) – Vocals, violin
Taufiq's *Taalisma* (2004) – Percussion, drums
Udistam Patric Lenoard & Shankar *Vocal, Double violin, Composer*
White Sands DST (1992) – Percussion, violin, vocals
Warren Cuccurullo's *The Blue* (2000) – Vocal, Violin
Yoko Ono's *Starpeace* (1985) – Violin
Yoko Ono's *Walking on Thin Ice* (1992) – Violin
Zimbo Trio's *Zimbo Convida* (1982)

“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



Shankar performing with Peter Gabriel, Tracey Chapman, Sting, Bruce Springsteen and Youssou N'Dour during the Amnesty International World Tour in 1988.



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



L. Shankar with David Lord (producer/engineer), and Peter Gabriel in the control room during the making of 'Security', Autumn 1981.

CONNECT WITH L.SHANKAR

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