

PAUL Z. LIVINGSTONE

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SUMMARY ARTISTSIC STATEMENT

An international performing artist, composer, educator and music director with diverse experience in world music traditions, jazz and crossover music, Paul is one of the few American artists to have learned intensively from the living legend and ambassador of Indian music and culture, Pandit Ravi Shankar. An American born in Beirut of missionary parents he has emerged from a family of non-musicians to become a performer known for his virtuosity on the sitar and a colorful array of world strings.

Since the age of 15 when he spent a year in India he has devoted his musical life to the intensive study of the sitar and the complex *raga* (melodic forms) and *tala* (rhythm cycles) systems of India. Paul's musical palette has been enriched with serious studies Persian, African (Ghana/Ewe), Indonesian gamelan (Java & Bali), Flamenco, Balkan, Brazilian & Mexican music as well as Jazz & Western harmony & counterpoint. Having grown up playing blues, funk, folk and rock n roll music his repertoire of music is not devoid of these popular American aesthetics. Paul continues his studies of Indian & world music in a commitment to excellence and life long learning.

Paul's authentic feel in performance of classical *ragas* and the level of virtuosity of his sitar playing are rarely heard from artists of non-Indian origin. He has been rigorously trained, continuously since 1985 in India and the US in the creative tradition of *Hindustani* (North Indian) classical music with a number of the leading masters (in addition to Raviji) including *sarod* maestro Dr. Rajeev Taranath, leading disciple of the late Ustad Ali Akbar Khan. In addition to learning to improvise in the *raga* (traditional melodic forms) system on sitar, he has also developed a unique contemporary approach to playing fretless guitars of his own design and teaching Indian *raga* music and *ragajazz* crossover music to players of western instruments.

Paul has performed in prestigious venues around the world with a variety of leading classical, jazz and traditional artists from India, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, Lebanon, Guinea, Jordan, Syria, Serbia, Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico, Spain, Canada and the US. He has been recognized in Indian and the US press as a dynamic performer in the Indian classical tradition and in the realm of crossover world music. Commencing his 4th musical sojourn (& 2nd performance tour) to India this winter (09/10), Paul brings an ensemble of 6 students for 'Sangeet Yatra', on a 2 week intensive music workshop & cultural tour in Kolkata (Calcutta) with classical masters of *Hindustani* music.

He has recorded with a number of traditional, jazz and popular artists including Ozomatli's '05 Grammy awarded 'Street Signs'. He received an (CIP/UCLA) APPEX Fellowship for collaborative work in Bali and the Los Angeles Music Week Award for "pioneering music in the community", as well as numerous grants for innovative work in the field of 'world music synthesis' as a performer, composer and educator.

Paul has composed for live theater, dance and scored new music for film and television. Next year he will complete the production of his 5th full length cd, of his own music. He has led and composed 'ragajazz chamber music' for the Arohi Ensemble for the past 12 years. *Arohi*, a term from the lexicon of Indian music/*raga* theory, refers to an 'ascending melody' and is a metaphor for playing with the intention to uplift the human spirit into our divine inheritance in God.

While working on his BFA and MFA degrees at the innovative music school of California Institute of the Arts, in 1993 he founded the Sangeet School of World Music through which he has presented musicians from all around the world in concerts and workshops on traditional and contemporary world music. He was also on the music faculty of Cal Arts for 5 years where he taught courses of his own creation including Raga Jazz Ensemble and Polyrhythmic Melodicism.

In the past few years Paul has brought his music and skills as a music director into a worship context for a variety of churches and inter-faith events in Southern California. Paul also recently published his first book, 'Sitar Talim' a manual and reference work for the first year of sitar study in the '*Maihar* ~*Baba Allauddin Khan*' gharana (school - performance style).

Paul's contemporary music, grounded in the rich aesthetics of Indian music, embraces seemingly disparate global styles blending diverse traditions into an authentic and compelling cross-cultural sound that reflects his social, political and spiritual values.

SELECT PROFESSIONAL CROSS-CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

1997-2009

'Arohi Ensemble' (creative world music) composed music & led ensemble for numerous performances, most notably REDCAT Theater, Santa Monica Festival & World Festival of Sacred Music (01 & 05), Cumbre Tajin (Veracruz, Mexico), Calcutta (India - Feb '08), Eagle Rock Music Festival (2003 & 2008).

1999, 2001, 2003 & 2007

'Tumbafe' (Indo-African original world music collaboration) with Prince Diabate, renown griot musician from Guinea, closing event of the World Festival of Sacred Music, Ford Ansen Amphitheatre.

1996 - 2007

Interdisciplinary cross-cultural music performances with dance, poetry & theater including Cornerstone Theater, Fountain Theater, 24th Street Theater among others.

1990 - 2008

Concert performances of jazz crossover, classical Indian, Persian, contemporary world music alongside artists Ravi Shankar, Hariprasad Chaurasia, Kenny Burrell, Glen Velez, Hossein Alizadeh, Swapan Chaudhuri, John Bergamo, Prince Diabate, Ali Jihad Racy, Poovalur Sriji, Abhijit Banerjee, Ozomatli, Pedro Eustache, Ravikiran Chitravina, Partho Sarothy, Liän Ensemble and the improvisation orchestra 'Build an Ark'.

Los Angeles area performances include Hollywood Bowl, John Anson Ford, Royce Hall, Orange County & Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, Japan American & Wilshire Ebell Theaters, House of Blues (Hollywood & Anaheim), Cal Arts REDCAT, UCLA, USC & the Knitting Factory (Hollywood) Eagle Rock Music Festival.

National performances include New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Ann Arbor, Orlando, Wichita, Columbia, Knoxville, Memphis, Little Rock, Detroit, San Luis Obispo & Baltimore.

International concerts in Spain, Malaysia, Indonesia, India & Mexico.

AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2008/09 Awarded Music LA Grant for 8 week World Music Youth Courses in North East Los Angeles through the Sangeet School, begins May 2009.

2008 Durfee Foundation, ARC Grant for special collaborative performances feature American artists in Arohi Ensemble and master musicians from India.

2006 & 2008 American Composers Forum, new works & community concert grants for performances in NELA & San Fernando Valley.

1998 – 2001 & 2007 Artist in the Community Grant (4 years) City of LA Dept of Cultural Affairs for educational east/west crossover workshops.

2004 APPEX Fellowship in Ubud, Bali (from UCLA/CIP)
Multi-national inter-disciplinary artist collaboration with 16 dancers, puppeteers, & musicians from India, Philippines, Malaysia, Java, Bali & US.

2005 Grammy Award
Participation on Ozomatli's Grammy winning "Street Signs", sitar performance.

2005 LA Music Week Award
Honoree & certificate of appreciation from the Los Angeles City Council. "In appreciation of pioneering music in our community and dedicating your life in teaching the rich multicultural heritage of music making our city a better place."

ARTS LEADERSHIP PRODUCTION & DIRECTION

1993-2009 – Produced ongoing series of multi-cultural concerts coordinating booking, contracting, Public Relations, sponsorship/fundraising for traditional and innovative expressions of Latin, Indian, Middle Eastern, African & South East Asian music, dance and world music theater.

1998-2009 – Founded and directed Sangeet School of World Music and Dance. Contracted high level artistic performing & teaching roster. Development of administrative staff, board & volunteer base. Procured strong working relationships with community partners & performance venues & institutions of higher learning such as Cal Arts, UCLA, Cal Tech, Occidental College & CSU Pomona in major collaborations such as the World Festival of Sacred Music.

2007 & 2009 – Directed a Music LA Program at Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock. Composed and directed for the SHIPLANG Ensemble, an east/west chamber orchestra of youth musicians. Responsibilities included teaching, budgeting & contracting local and international performing artists for concert performances & relevant lecture/demonstrations. Other duties included rehearsing & directing music ensembles for performance. Will direct & teach for Music LA program scheduled for spring 2010.

COMPOSITION, PRODUCTION, PUBLISHING & RECORDING

1992-2009 – Film & Television - session work & composition

Composed music for ‘Turbans’, award winning independent film, broadcast on PBS in 2000. Produced ‘Turbans’ soundtrack cd. Compositor for WB/ Cartoon Network ‘Swaroop’, the 1st Indian/American cartoon. Documentary projects for the LA County Museum of Art & the Getty Museum. Original score for ‘Kavi’ a dramatic short about modern day slavery. Numerous Hollywood film sessions.

1998-2008 – Concert Production

Produced, performed, taught contemporary world music concerts & workshops with master guest musicians from India, Venezuela, Iran, and USA in performance venues & community centers around Los Angeles. The events commonly included educational components training young musicians.

2000-2007 – Original music/cd releases

Produced 4 cds of original music ‘Arohi’, ‘Salaam Suite’, ‘Vinaya’ & ‘Classical Ragas’. Collaborations on cd recordings notably Ozomatli, Beck & Cypress Hill (of Los Angeles), Prince Diabate (Guinea), Alanis Morissette (Canada), Liän Ensemble (Iran), Pedro Eustache (Venezuela) & Simon Lyng (Greenland).

2006-2009 – Pedagogic Music Education Materials

Development combined east/west notation system with original font for crossover educational materials. Published instruction manual ‘Sitar Talim’ an introduction to playing ragas and technique of sitar. Now completing ‘Raga Jazz Primer’ an introduction to world music synthesis.

2003 & 2006 – Theater composition & live performance

‘Chitra’ musical director & composer for new world music theater production of Rabindranath Tagore’s ‘Chitrangada’. Composer for Cornerstone Theater’s ‘As Vishnu Dreams’ a 21st century adaptation of the Ramayana dealing post 9/11 issues of war & nationalism.

WORSHIP IN THE ARTS

2009 – Throop Unitarian Universalist Church, Pasadena, CA - Director of Music

2009 – Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, Westchester CA – satsang/guest worship artist

2009 – St. John’s Episcopal Church, Los Angeles CA – satsang/guest worship artist

2007 – East/West Church, Anaheim CA – satsang/guest worship artist

2006 & 2009 – USC Religious Center, Los Angeles CA – satsang/guest worship artist

MUSIC EDUCATION

1980 – 1989 Los Angeles (incl. LA County HS for the Arts)

Fundamental western music studies, private & school study including clarinet, voice, piano, guitar.
Classical western music, folk, blues, rock & jazz.

1986 - 1987 Moosourie, Uttar Pradesh, INDIA

Intensive study of North Indian classical music (sitar, tabla & theory).

1989 - 1997 California Institute of the Arts, BFA & MFA

Music major with an emphasis on Sitar & North Indian performance under Amiya Dasgupta & Rajeev Taranath. Also studied Jazz with Charlie Haden & Larry Koonse, Indian voice, South Indian rhythm, Western harmony & counterpoint, West African/Ewe Music and Dance under Alfred & Kobla Ladzekpo & Dzidzorgbe Beatrice Lawluvi, Javanese Gamelan under K.R.T. Wasitodiningrat-Pak Cokro & Pak Djoko Walujo, Macedonian music under Miroslav Tadic & Persian music with Hossein Alizadeh.

1989 – 2009 Calcutta, San Diego & Los Angeles

Lessons of Indian music with Amiya Dasgupta, Rajeev Taranath Pt. Ravi Shankar & Partho Chatterjee.

TEACHING AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

1993 - 2009 – Conducted interactive music workshops and master classes in around US, Mexico, Spain & India (Feb 08). Throughout Los Angeles in public and private schools for elementary, high school and university classes. Higher education workshops & lectures include CSLB (Long Beach), Univ. of Tenn. (Chattanooga), Univ. of Miss (Oxford), Kansas State Univ. (Wichita), Occidental College (Los Angeles), Esquela Superior de Musica & Univ. Nacional de las Artes (Mexico City), Rabindra Bharati Univ. (Calcutta) & Yale University.

1994 & 2001-2006 – Faculty position at California Institute of the Arts (Cal Arts), taught classes of world music synthesis, North Indian classical music including sitar, Indian & crossover ensembles, polyrhythm & Indian music theory. Taught new & original courses at Cal Arts namely, Raga Jazz Ensemble & Polyrhythmic Melodicism.

1998-2009 – Founded and directed Sangeet School of World Music. Taught Indian music, sitar, and guitar for adults and classes for children emphasizing drumming, interactive ensemble playing and cultural diversity.

2001-2007 – Volunteer teaching low income minority youth & students, guitar, drumming, world music & music appreciation, through Hathaway Family Resource Center & Arts Core LA in inner city schools & arts centers.

DISCOGRAPHY / FILMOGRAPHY

Personal Discography:

Arohi 2004

Salaam Suite 2006

Vinaya 2007

Art of Transcendence 2007 (live dvd)

Live Classical Ragas 2008

India/US Jugalbandi 2009 (live dvd)

Visions of Eternal Light (Arohi Ensemble – forthcoming to be released 2010)

Collaborative Discography:

Ozomatli (self titled) 1999

New Life – Prince Diabate 2002

Light & Fire - Lian Ensemble 2003

Knees of my Bees - Alanis Morissette - 2004

Street Signs – Ozomatli 2005 (Grammy Award)

Indonesia Postmodern - 2006

Love – Build an Ark 2009

Film & Television Scoring:

Turbans 1999

Swaroop 2003 (Warner Brothers animation)

Looking for Humor in the Muslim World 2006

Kavi 2008

MISCELLANEOUS (PRESS, INTERVIEWS & PUBLISHED WORK)

Published ‘Sitar Talim’ a 56 page workbook & reference work for the first year of sitar study & practice/play-along cd with tanpura & tabla tracks.

For complete published interviews press quotes please visit: www.tanpura.com/press_quotes.htm

RagaJazzMusic blog: <http://ragajazz.blogspot.com>

My Space: www.myspace.com/arohi

CORPORATE ENDORSEMENTS

Professional endorsements with major musical instrument companies including D’Addario Strings, Fender, Santa Cruz & Godin Guitars. Procured corporate support for educational music programming.