





TAKE A TRIP down you inner Ganges, the mythic spiritual river of India. This album permeates your senses with rich images of the East. Masterfully played on Sitar, Santoor Tabla, Bansuri and Soprano Sax, the music moves from meditative stillness to rhythmic celebration of the great river of life.

MANISH VYAS and PREM JOSHUA both extraordinary multi-instrumentalists, composers, singers and musical partners, have been recording and giving concerts together all over the world. This joint album is an inspired collection of compositions played with high craftsmanship - melting the traditional musical boundaries of East and West.



1. WATER DOWN THE GANGES

Take a trip on a boat and let yourself be slowly carried down the Ganges of your senses, your own river of life. So much water flows down the Ganges every moment - healing is just a matter of time.

2. HABIBI

Can you see that man dancing on the river banks in the sun? The heart of a Sufi is one of overflowing love. How else to explain how he calls God Habibi or the beloved? The Sufi poet and mystic Mevlana Rumi describes life as "a thousand ways to kiss the ground."

3. SAWARI

Along the Ganges there were many kingdoms and out of the morning mist appear the outlines of many palaces of maharajas and sultans. Many festivities and religious ceremonies are still taking place involving thousands of people in procession with elephants, horses and chariots - festivals of music, dance, colours and fragrances. These processions are called "sawari."

4. TRUST

Where Ganga leaves the foothills of the Himalayas there is a place for pilgrims called Hardwar. There is a young traveller standing outside a temple on the ghats of the mountain river. The clear water looks inviting. He needs an urgent bath but just dipping his big toe into the water he hesitates and thinks twice. The water is freezing cold and the stream is moving with such force towards a large waterfall just near a closeby bridge. While still contemplating whether to go in or not, he sees an old sadhu with sparkling eyes running towards the water shouting the name of Shiva and leaping into the river! The young traveler holds his breath. The sadhu was immediately taken away by the strong stream towards the waterfall. Just seconds later he sees the sadhu baba grasping a loose steel chain hanging from a bridge and climbing up like a young monkey, still praising Shiva. This song is dedicated to the river and the old baba.



5. FERRYMAN'S TALE

Ferryman certainly know a lot of stories. Although they just go back and forth from one shore to another on the same river, the whole world seems to come to them! This tale sings of the times of celebration when the rains are finally arriving after a long period of drought.

6. MOON SONG

When the full moon shines over mighty Ganga on a clear night – it is like time has come to a halt. It seems like a thousand stars shine in the quiet waters and musicians and dancers dedicated to the full moon. It is reported that on such an occasion a great raja was listening to the music of his court musicians and dancers, totally immersed and captivated by their play and the beauty of the night. At this moment he was interrupted by a courier announcing that an enemy king with his army had approached the walls of the city to take over the kingdom. The raja told his courier to inform the foreign king that he can have the kingdom, they could settle such mundane things in the next morning. The foreign king was quietly asked not to disturb such a magical and peaceful night of music and silence, and was even invited to join them. The legend continues that the foreign king, originally being prepared for war, was so puzzled by the raja's answer that he couldn't resist his curiosity. He followed the invitation and quietly joined the concert. When he saw the raja and his court meditating to the celestial music, he was so moved and humbled by the beauty of the scene, that he apologized to the raja and withdrew with his army.

7. GANGA POOJA

This is a mantra in worship of the river Ganga: *Jaya Jaya Jaya Jage Pavani | Jayati Devasari Ganga | Jaya Shiva Jata Nivasini | Anupama Tunga Taranga*. Ganga who quenches the thirst of the universe, who is the mother divine, who resides in Shiva's long hair, flows majestically from the heights to the oceans.

8. NISHA

As night falls on Ganga, mists rise from the waters and the branches of the trees sway gently in the breeze to the sounds of a million crickets. Inspired by the stars of the night, the villagers celebrate with dance and music just as the gopis once danced with Krishna.





MANISH VYAS was born in Gujarat, India and started learning music when he was about ten year old. He carries the flavor and understanding of the music from India in his heart. He is composer, singer, multi-instrumentalist - being Tabla his first instrument which he learned with top Maestros along his life. He was able to contribute in this album the feeling, color and rhythms of his beloved motherland India.

PREM JOSHUA has his seeds in western music as a flautist and sax player, with roots performing in jazz and rock bands. He travelled to India and fell in love with its music which he started to learn from local Gurus; choosing Bansuri and Sitar as his Indian instruments, which he then started sharing in his recording and live performances, giving an innovative, fusion feel to his new creations.

They both met in 1987 in India and collaborated together in many recordings and concerts during many years. A great merging of East and West, bringing the best of both worlds in music.



Manish Vyas: Vocals, Tabla, Santoor,
Keyboards, Vocals, Percussion,
co-compositions

Prem Joshua: Sitar, Bansuri, Soprano
Saxophone, vocals, Tanpura,
co-compositions

David Nyrop: Keyboards on Water Down
the Ganges

Rishi: Drum arrangements on Water
Down the Ganges and Ferryman's Tale,
mix and master at Dublab Studios

Recorded at Istana Studio, Italy 2001

All music written, played and produced
by Manish Vyas and Prem Joshua

© and (p) all rights reserved 2002
Manish Vyas and Prem Joshua

Digital distribution: Manish Vyas

manishvyas.com
premjoshua.com



