

The Dawn of Indian Music in the West

By Peter Lavezzoli

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"The Dawn of Indian Music in the West," by Peter Lavezzoli. Foreword by Ravi Shankar. In the 1960s, the wonders of Indian music, and its unique message of peace, were spread in the West by Ravi Shankar, George Harrison and the Beatles, John Coltrane, Yehudi Menuhin, and others. In 1971, Harrison and Shankar organized the Concert for Bangladesh, the first superstar charity event, in hopes of stopping a war and feeding the hungry. But Indian music also had a profound impact on the work of Mickey Hart and the Grateful Dead, Philip Glass, John McLaughlin, and many others. At the dawn of the 21st century, Indian music's spiritual message is more timely than ever before. Here is the story of the musical merging of East and West, from the Beatles and John Coltrane to the Asian Underground. Peter Lavezzoli has a rare ability to articulate the personal feeling of music, while also narrating a comprehensive history. In his refreshingly accessible discussion on Indian music theory, he clarifies Eastern musical structures and terminology for Western readers. For this book, Lavezzoli conducted historic in-depth interviews with: Ravi Shankar, Ali Akbar Khan, Zakir Hussain, Mickey Hart, David Crosby & Roger McGuinn of the Byrds, Philip Glass, Jim Keltner, Zubin Mehta, John McLaughlin, Terry Riley, Bill Laswell, Cheb i Sabbah, Anoushka Shankar, Tanmoy Bose, Shujaat Khan, Shubhendra Rao, Saskia Rao de Haas, Mary Johnson Khan, and George Ruckert. These interviews bring an additional immediacy and authority to the book through the personal insights of the musicians themselves. The chapters on Indian music's relationships with jazz, rock, and electronic music are definitive. Includes a glossary and rare photos.

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Editorial Review

Review
The trajectory traced by Peter Lavezzoli is of absolute importance in the development of the best music of the last half-century. He deserves the gratitude of anyone interested in Indian classical, jazz, and contemporary electronica. --Geoff Dyer

It is amazing to see the dedication and amount of hard work Peter Lavezzoli has gone through in creating this book. Readers will be rewarded with much information, hitherto unknown. --From the Foreword by Ravi Shankar

Unparalleled insights into the personal side of the story--how the musicians interacted with each other, both musically and socially, in creating this phenomenon. Highly recommended. --Roderic Knight

"Peter Lavezzoli'sstudy is a gloriously detailed explanation of Hindustani classical music...Ittakes some education for untrained ears to learn how to listen to Indianclassical music, and Lavezzoli does a great job of explaining concepts likeraga and tala.... the music is dissected with scholarly precision while thecosmic implication are also investigated thoroughly."- Brian J. Bowe, *harpmagazine.com,* September/ October2006

'One of the book's strengths is that it embraces the whole footprint of Indian music...Lavezzoli is sure-footed in his discussions of music theory and practice, and the interviews with key figures, reproduced...in conversation format are useful resources...This book does fill a noticeable gap on the shelves of university and public libraries for serious Indian music enthusiasts.'
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Lavezzoli... presents an excellent overview of the style of Hindustani, or North Indian, classical music. He presents minutely detailed transcriptions of his interviews, all with insightful commentary, of the principal Indian and Western musicians who have been the prime movers behind the presentation and appreciation of Indian music in the West. Almost a reference book in its dense coverage, this book is nevertheless highly readable and entertaining. Lavezzoli includes a good glossary but a much too select bibliography- *CHOICE February 2007<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />*

'[a] compendious and fascinating book...It is impossible to do justice to the scope of Lavezzoli's findings in a short review: suffice to say that whether you want to know exactly how the John McLaughlin and Zakir Hussain's Shakti came about, or to follow the Ravi Shankar-Frank Zappa-Peter Gabriel trail, everything you need to know is here in abundance.' ~ Michael Church, *Songlines*
(Michael Church)

'Lavezzoli's focus is sharp, primarily Americentric and, without a shadow of a doubt, the finest treatment of what most of *Jazzwise's* readers would understand by dawn in the context...The heart of the book is a series of marvellous, illuminating Q&A interviews...The only real problem I had with this book was continually going back and re-reading sections instead of reviewing it. High, high praise indeed.'
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(Ken Hunt, Froots)

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2006 winner of the ARSC Awards for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research.

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About the Author
Peter Lavezzoli is the author of "The King of All, Sir Duke: Ellington and the Artistic Revolution," and "The Dawn of Indian Music in the West" (foreword by Ravi Shankar), both published by Continuum Books of New York & London. A revised edition of the latter book was published in India by Harper Collins as "Bhairavi: The Global Impact of Indian Music." Lavezzoli is a professional drummer and vocalist, and a Library of Congress narrator of Talking Books for the Blind. Lavezzoli holds a Honors Religious Studies BA from Florida International University, specializing in Chinese Buddhist History.

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