

International performing artist Paul Livingstone is an active composer, producer and community activist with diverse experience with world music, jazz & pop/crossover music to his record. One of the few American artists to have learned directly from the living legend 'godfather of world music' Pandit Ravi Shankar. Paul's authentic feel in performance of classical *ragas* and level of virtuosity of his sitar playing are rarely heard from artists of non-Indian origin. He is also sought after for his unique approach on fretless guitars & other world strings for creative new music.

With concert performances & workshops on traditional and crossover music around the US, Mexico, South East Asia, Spain and India when he was recognized in the Calcutta press as "an Indian soul in white skin". Ravi Shankar commented on his debut recording Arohi as "a very effective and impressive approach."

Paul has played with a wide range of world music and jazz artists and as an educator taught musicians of diverse backgrounds. In the creative tradition of *Hindustani* (North Indian) classical music Paul has been rigorously trained since 1985 in India and the US to play and improvise in the *raga* system (traditional melodic forms) on sitar and had developed a unique contemporary approach to playing Indian *raga* music and *Raga Jazz* on western instruments.

Paul has produced 4 of cds of classical Indian and creative world music. His debut recording 'Arohi' is also the name of his RagaJazz group which he has led since 1998. Arohi Ensemble features Paul on *sitar*, fretless guitars & *requinto* (Mexican folk guitar), Pedro Eustache on *world winds*, Abhijit Banerjee on tabla, Peter Jacobson on cello & bass and David Lewis on drum set. Arohi has also featured a number of guest artists from India such as Partho Sarodi on *sarod*, Somnath Roy on *ghatum* (South Indian clay pot), Geetha Bennett on *veena* & vocal as well as and several of his mentors from Cal Arts such as Mirosalac Tadic on guitar, John Bergamo on frame drums.

A regular session musician & composer for diverse cd projects, film, television, live theater & dance. His recording credits popular artists Ozomatli, (debut 'Ozomatli' recording and Grammy winning 'Street Signs') as well as Alanis Morissette, Beck and Cypress Hill. Paul has also recorded with African *Griot*, Prince Diabate (Guinea) and the Persian contemporary/Sufi group the Liän Ensemble. He has also worked with diverse virtuoso artists such as Swapan Chaudhuri, Kenny Burrell, Hossien Alizadeh, Ali Jihad Racy, Poovalur Sriji and Glen Velez.

Paul has received numerous awards, grants and fellowships for his unique work and leadership in the field of 'world music synthesis' as an performer, composer and educator. Honors include an APPEX fellowship (Bali), LA Music Week Award for "pioneering music in the community & improving the life of our city by teaching the rich multi-cultural heritage to our youth to diverse traditions of music" from Los Angeles City Council Member Ed Reyes and Artist in the Community grants from the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Dept and American Composers Forum.

An American born in Beirut, Lebanon as **Paul Zwemer Shaeffer Livingstone**, of missionary parents Greg and Sally Livingstone. From a family of non-musicians he became an international performing artist known for his virtuosity on the sitar and a colorful array of world strings including stringed instruments of his own design. Paul is a dynamic performer in the rigorous improvisational realm of Indian classical music and through the vehicle of his own original 'ragajazz chamber music'. Since the age of 15 when he spent a year in India at Woodstock School in Mussoorie, U.P. he devoted his musical life to the intensive study of the sitar and the ragas of North.

Paul received his BFA & MFA degrees in world music from Cal Arts learning Indian music under Amiya Dasgupta & Rajeev Taranath, Javanese gamelan under Pak Djoko Walujo, jazz with Larry Koonse & Charlie Haden, African Ewe Music with the Alfred & Kobla Ladzekpo and Persian Music with Hossein Alizadeh. After this time of schooling he continued under the tutelage of the sarod maestro Rajeev Taranath, Partho Chatterjee and became a student of the living legend maestro Ravi Shankar.

In addition to leading and composing for the Arohi Ensemble he has composed scores for film, television live theater and dance. Paul is the Founder & Artistic Director of the Sangeet School of World Music through which he has presented musicians from all seven continents of the world in concerts and workshops on traditional and contemporary world music. He was also on music faculty of Cal Arts for 5 years where he taught courses of his own creation including Raga Jazz Ensemble and Polyrhythmic Melodicism.

Paul's contemporary music grounded in rich aesthetics of Indian music, embraces seemingly disparate styles from all corners of the globe in his commitment to blending diverse traditions into a compelling cross-cultural sound reflecting his innermost social, political and spiritual values.

Official website: www.tanpura.com
My Space: www.myspace.com/arohi
RagaJazzMusic blog: <http://ragajazz.blogspot.com>

Discography:

Arohi 2004
Salaam Suite 2006
Vinaya 2007
Art of Transcendence 2007 (live dvd)
Live Classical Ragas 2008

Film Scoring:

Turbans 1999
Swaroop 2003 (WB animation)
Looking for Humor in the Muslim World 2006
Kavi 2008