

= Collaborations ( Ravi Shankar and George Harrison album ) =

Collaborations is a four @-@ disc compilation box set by Indian classical musician Ravi Shankar and former Beatle George Harrison . Released in October 2010 on Dark Horse Records , it compiles two studio albums originally issued on that label ? the long @-@ unavailable Shankar Family & Friends ( 1974 ) and Ravi Shankar 's Music Festival from India ( 1976 ) ? and Chants of India , first issued on Angel Records in 1997 . Although all three albums were originally Shankar releases , for which Harrison served in the role of music producer and guest musician , both Shankar and Harrison are credited as artists on the box set . Each of the collaborative projects represents a departure from Shankar 's more typical work as a sitarist and performer of Hindustani classical ragas , with the box set showcasing his forays into , variously , jazz and rock , Indian folk and orchestral ensembles , and devotional music .

The fourth disc of Collaborations is a DVD containing previously unissued film of a performance by the Music Festival from India , recorded at London 's Royal Albert Hall in September 1974 . Filmed by director Stuart Cooper , the footage required substantial restoration for its 2010 release . An audio @-@ only track on the DVD , prepared by Anoushka Shankar and Paul Hicks , provides a more complete record of the concert .

Issued nine years after Harrison 's death , the limited @-@ edition release coincided with celebrations for Shankar 's 90th birthday and was overseen by Harrison 's widow , Olivia . Among the lavish packaging for the compilation , each disc appears inside enlarged , 8 ½ -inch sleeves , and each copy of the set is individually numbered . An accompanying book contains a foreword by American composer Philip Glass , rare photographs documenting Shankar and Harrison 's 35 @-@ year friendship , and commentary from both artists on the projects featured in the box set . While Collaborations presents only a portion of Shankar and Harrison 's work together , music critics have recognised it as a successful representation of the far @-@ reaching cultural legacy of their partnership .

= = Background = =

In June 1966 , while still a member of the Beatles , George Harrison met Indian classical musician Ravi Shankar in London and became a student of the sitarist . Harrison later said that , for himself , the music was " like an excuse " , and that in reality he was searching for a " spiritual connection " with the culture of India . The association immediately brought Shankar and Indian music unprecedented popularity in the West , while Harrison 's introduction of the sitar into the Beatles ' sound inspired a new genre known as raga rock . By 1971 , a year after the Beatles ' break @-@ up , and having established himself as a solo artist with his All Things Must Pass triple album ( 1970 ) , Harrison began working with Shankar , as his producer . These 1971 projects , all released on the Beatles ' Apple record label , included the soundtrack to the documentary film Raga ; Shankar 's Joi Bangla EP , recorded to raise international awareness for the plight of refugees of the Bangladesh Liberation War ; and the live album The Concert for Bangladesh , which documented the UNICEF benefit concerts that Harrison and Shankar staged in New York that August .

Twenty @-@ three years older than Harrison , Shankar described their relationship as , variously , that of father and son ( with each one adopting either role ) ; close friends ; and teacher and student . Author Ian Inglis has commented on the various differences between the two musicians , in terms of age , culture and social status : " And yet , in another sense , those contrasting factors helped to prevent any personal or professional rivalries , produced spaces and separations that their music could fill , and ultimately created ? a partnership that was never competitive , but perfectly complementary . " While their collaborations continued only intermittently after the mid 1970s , the depth of their friendship remained , such that Harrison would credit Shankar as being " the person who has influenced my life the most " . When Harrison died in November 2001 , following a four @-@ year battle with cancer , Shankar was at his bedside , along with members of Harrison 's family .

= = Musical content = =

The 2010 box set Collaborations was one of several reissue projects celebrating Shankar 's 90th birthday . It compiles three studio albums that he and Harrison worked on together between 1973 and 1996 : Shankar Family & Friends ( 1974 ) , Ravi Shankar 's Music Festival from India ( 1976 ) and Chants of India ( 1997 ) . The first two of these albums had long been out of print , and their inclusion in the box set marked the debut CD release for both titles . Disc four contains a previously unissued concert film from 1974 , titled Music Festival from India ? Live at the Royal Albert Hall .

Harrison 's role on the three studio albums was mainly confined to that of a record producer , although his name appeared prominently on the front cover of Chants of India , and the latter was marketed as a collaborative work between Shankar and Harrison . Collaborations presents the albums in reverse chronological order , with Chants of India appearing on disc one .

= = = Chants of India = = =

Shankar and Harrison recorded the album between January and August 1996 , with sessions taking place in the southern India city of Madras , and at Harrison 's English home , Friar Park , in Henley @-@ on @-@ Thames . The majority of the selections consist of Vedic prayers and other Sanskrit @-@ worded , Hindu religious texts that Shankar set to music . He also wrote new pieces in a similarly sacred vein , including " Prabhujee " , the only song on the album to contain Hindi lyrics . Among the many musicians and singers on Chants of India were Shankar 's daughter Anoushka , tablist Bikram Ghosh and santoor player Tarun Bhattacharya .

The album 's creation resulted from Shankar and Harrison having renewed their close friendship in recent years ; this following a period when , by his own admission , Shankar had partially withdrawal from his Western @-@ musician friends in the late 1970s , stung by persistent criticism from the Indian press that he was " diluting " Indian classical music . Other projects that the pair undertook together in the mid 1990s include Ravi Shankar : In Celebration ( 1996 ) , a four @-@ disc career retrospective compiled by Harrison , and Raga Mala , Shankar 's second autobiography , for which Harrison served as editor .

Shankar considered Chants of India to be among his best works , and he praised Harrison 's contributions as a musician and producer on the album . Released on Angel Records in May 1997 , the album was critically well received . In his book The Dawn of Indian Music in the West , Peter Lavezzoli describes it as " a quiet masterpiece , one of the most uplifting and musically engaging recordings of scared music " , while AllMusic critic Jim Brenholts writes : " Among records of this nature , this one is special . " Chants of India was the last official musical collaboration between the two artists , after Harrison was diagnosed with cancer in August that year .

= = = Ravi Shankar 's Music Festival from India = = =

Harrison first got the idea to stage what became the 1974 Music Festival from India during the Bombay sessions for his debut solo album , the 1968 film soundtrack Wonderwall Music , after hearing Shankar 's orchestral work Nava Rasa Ranga . While in India in early 1974 , Shankar and Harrison planned the venture , which consisted of a European tour by Shankar 's hand @-@ picked orchestra of Indian classical musicians , after which the ensemble would tour North America with Harrison and his band of Western musicians . For his orchestra , Shankar selected regular accompanists such as tabla player Alla Rakha and singers Lakshmi Shankar and Kamala Chakravarty ; other established players including Shivkumar Sharma ( santoor ) , Hariprasad Chaurasia ( flute ) , Rijram Desad ( percussion ) and Kamalesh Maitra ( tabla tarang ) ; and musicians that went on to establish themselves internationally as a result of their participation , such as violinist L. Subramaniam and sarangi player Sultan Khan .

Before the European tour began in September 1974 , Shankar and Harrison recorded a studio album with the sixteen Music Festival musicians at Friar Park . Using the facilities from his upstairs studio , FPSHOT , Harrison recorded the album in Friar Park 's drawing room , overlooking the

property 's expansive gardens . Shankar wrote the pieces in a variety of traditional Indian folk and classical styles , often composing on his way to Henley from his London hotel , while travelling along the M4 motorway . Harrison later recalled his fear that Shankar 's directions to the assembled musicians would create a musical " catastrophe " , yet the result each time was " the most amazing thing " . Among the tracks on Ravi Shankar 's Music Festival from India , " Raga Jait " is Shankar 's interpretation of that raga for an orchestral ensemble , and the ten @-@ minute " Dehati " features extended interplay between the various percussionists . The album was released on Harrison 's Dark Horse record label in February 1976 .

= = = Shankar Family & Friends = = =

Shankar and Harrison began recording Shankar Family & Friends in Los Angeles in April 1973 . In a marked departure from Shankar 's more familiar work in the Hindustani classical style , the album was a fusion of several musical genres , particularly Indian classical , jazz and Western pop . The contributors ranged from American jazz proponents Tom Scott and Emil Richards to Indian players such as Rakha , Sharma , Chaurasia , Subramaniam , sarodya Aashish Khan and , a former student and longtime associate of Shankar 's , multi @-@ instrumentalist Harihar Rao . Adopting the pseudonym " Hari Georgeson " , since he was still contracted to EMI @-@ affiliated Apple Records , Harrison contributed on electric and acoustic guitars , and autoharp . Shankar played sitar , surbahar and Moog synthesizer , and otherwise served as director and conductor at the sessions . Other participants included guitarist David Bromberg , members of the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra , and electronic music artists Paul Beaver and Robert Margouleff .

One side of the original LP consisted of music that Shankar had composed for a ballet , titled Dream , Nightmare & Dawn , while among the album 's other songs and bhajans was a rare English @-@ language pop composition by Shankar , " I Am Missing You " . Harrison arranged the latter track in a rock @-@ music setting , with backing from Western musicians such as Scott , Billy Preston , Ringo Starr and Jim Keltner ; sung by Lakshmi Shankar , this version of " I Am Missing You " was the first single released on Dark Horse Records , in September 1974 . Music from Shankar Family & Friends featured in the setlist for the Harrison ? Shankar North American tour later that year , during which the Music Festival personnel were accompanied on stage by Harrison and members of his touring band , such as Scott and Richards .

= = = Music Festival from India ? Live at the Royal Albert Hall = = =

Harrison sponsored Shankar 's Music Festival from India concerts through his Material World Charitable Foundation , for which the European tour was its debut event . The DVD issued on Collaborations is from the Music Festival 's concert at the Royal Albert Hall , London , on 23 September 1974 , the first date of the tour . The footage was shot by director Stuart Cooper , whose film Little Malcolm , made early the previous year , marked Harrison 's first foray into film production .

After Harrison introduces Shankar to the London audience , Shankar conducts the musicians during the performance . He plays sitar on the twenty @-@ minute " Raga Yaman Kalyan " , however , accompanied by Rakha . Author Simon Leng recognises the Music Festival from India as the first Indian orchestra to have played in Europe , while Harrison 's widow Olivia , in her role as producer of the compilation , notes singer and mridangam player T.V. Gopalkrishnan among the musicians who went on to have " incredible careers of their own " .

Considerable restoration was required to prepare Live at the Royal Albert Hall for release in 2010 , since much of Cooper 's footage had been lost during the ensuing decades or damaged . Olivia Harrison explained : " We laid music where we had picture and we cheated a little bit with picture where only sound existed to create over an hour of the concert ? " A separate selection on the DVD presents the audio for a more complete version of the performance , lasting over 90 minutes . Also included is a short segment where Anoushka Shankar and Paul Hicks , as remaster producers , work on the concert audio in a San Diego studio and are visited by Shankar and Olivia .

= = Artwork and packaging = =

Collaborations was presented in an unusually lavish package , designed by Drew Lorimer and Olivia Harrison . Housed in a hinged box , the four discs sit on cardboard bases inside album covers measuring 8 ½ by 8 ½ inches , with the enlargement from CD and DVD dimensions allowing for a closer replication of the original LP jackets . A limited @-@ edition release , each copy of the box set came with an individually numbered certificate of authenticity .

A 56 @-@ page , hardcover book contains quotes from Shankar and Harrison , commenting on their long friendship and the projects represented on the discs . Both artists ' families supplied photographs for the book , while other pictures are credited to professional photographers Clive Arrowsmith , Dezo Hoffmann , Jan Steward and Carolyn Jones . The photo used on the front of the box was one of a series of pictures that Arrowsmith took at Friar Park in 1974 , over the period when the Music Festival orchestra were recording and rehearsing there .

The book 's foreword was supplied by American composer Philip Glass , with whom Shankar had collaborated on the 1990 album Passages . Glass writes of the Shankar ? Harrison musical partnership as having " [ made ] waves ... on a tremendous scale and for a passionate worldwide audience " , adding that its influence " reverberates , as clearly , even today " .

= = Release = =

The box set was issued on Dark Horse Records , distributed by Rhino Entertainment , on 18 October 2010 in Britain , and 19 October in the United States . Announcing the release in August that year , Consequence of Sound described it as " a certified dream for world music / Beatles fans " . Collaborations coincided with East Meets West Music 's Shankar reissues such as the Nine Decades series and the DVD release of the long @-@ unavailable Raga , which features 1968 footage of Harrison as well as the soundtrack he produced and originally issued on Apple . In America , the box set was available solely through Harrison 's official website and the online retailer Amazon . At this time the Harrison estate undertook a similarly low @-@ key campaign for the 40th anniversary of All Things Must Pass , which coincided with several reissue projects relating to the Beatles .

Collaborations entered Billboard magazine 's Top World Albums list at number 3 , its peak position on that chart . Having been Harrison 's assistant at Dark Horse during the 1970s , Olivia Harrison promoted the release ; in an interview with Spinner , she described the reissue project as a " labor of love for me " .

= = Reception = =

In a five @-@ star review for Goldmine magazine , Gillian Gaar considered that Collaborations " succeeded on crossover appeal " and had praise for the " mesmerizing " Music Festival album and concert DVD . Reviewing the box set for Uncut , John Lewis found Harrison " a little too respectful " in his deference to Shankar on the 1970s projects , although he admired Chants of India , saying : " there is a heaviness and intensity to each performance that makes this seemingly austere collection quite compelling to rock ears . "

Terry Staunton of Record Collector commented that had John Lennon and Paul McCartney ceded more of their creative control in the Beatles to Harrison , " there might today be a stronger case for Ravi Shankar 's claim to the fiercely @-@ debated position of fifth Beatle . " Staunton described Collaborations as an " intriguing series of East ? West summits " and concluded : " It may have limited appeal ? but this box set is a strong testament to two friends ' mutual respect and their desire to push musical boundaries . " In an article for Time Out New York on the various Beatles @-@ related reissues of late 2010 , Sophie Harris wrote : " You might not think that Vedic chanting is your thing , but as Philip Glass notes in the introduction to this gorgeous set , there 's scarcely a musician in the world who hasn 't been touched by the musical partnership [ between Shankar and Harrison ]

? Contained herein : awesome , spooky @-@ sounding chanting , a live DVD , a glossy book and much more to rejoice about . "

While also comparing the collection to the more highly publicised reissues by Lennon and McCartney , Joe Marchese of The Second Disc praised Collaborations for its adventurous music , as well as the lavishness of the packaging . Of the three studio albums , he described Shankar Family & Friends as the " most commercial " and Music Festival from India as " exotic , but immediately transporting " , and wrote that " joy and a celebratory feel exudes from [ Chants of India ] " . Marchese added : " [ The ] albums illuminate an important aspect of the career of George Harrison , for sure . But they also remind one of the immense musical influence of Ravi Shankar ... These once hard @-@ to @-@ find LPs are presented with great integrity here . "

Writing for AllMusic , Richie Unterberger qualifies the joint credit afforded Shankar and Harrison , saying : " Without downplaying the closeness of the two musicians ' friendship and Harrison 's genuine participation in all of these projects , it should be stated up front that this is much more Shankar 's music than Harrison 's , and much more Indian music than the rock for which Harrison was most famed . " Unterberger describes the box set as " a bountiful gathering of some of Shankar 's more accessible recordings " and highlights Chants of India as the most effective collaboration between the two artists . PopMatters contributor Sachyn Mital described the box set as " a special gift for [ Shankar 's ] fans " on the occasion of his 90th birthday , and " worthy of a man of such esteemed stature " . Mital concludes of the partnership : " The diligence of Harrison brought Ravi Shankar , Indian music and Eastern spirituality soundly into Western collective consciousness . "

= = Track listing = =

#### Disc one ? Chants of India

All selections are traditional , adapted by Ravi Shankar , except where noted .

- " Vandanaa Trayee " ? 4 : 32
- " Omkaaraaya Namaha " ? 1 : 53
- " Vedic Chanting One " ? 3 : 12
- " Asato Maa " ? 7 : 12
- " Sahanaa Vavavtu " ? 4 : 26
- " Poornamadah " ? 1 : 28
- " Gaayatri " ? 3 : 26
- " Mahaa Mrityunjaya " ? 4 : 43
- " Veenaa @-@ Murali " ? 3 : 36
- " Geetaa " ? 2 : 13
- " Managalam " ( Shankar , Dr Nandakumara ) ? 4 : 03
- " Hari Om " ( Shankar ) ? 2 : 57
- " Svara Mantra " ( Shankar ) ? 4 : 34
- " Vedic Chanting Two " ? 2 : 13
- " Prabhujee " ( Shankar ) ? 8 : 06
- " Sarve Shaam " ? 5 : 09

#### Disc two ? Ravi Shankar 's Music Festival from India

All selections written by Shankar .

- " Vandana " ? 2 : 44
- " Dhamar " ? 5 : 23
- " Tarana / Chaturang " ? 5 : 33
- " Raga Jait " ? 9 : 48
- " Kajri " ? 4 : 51
- " Bhajan " ? 3 : 56
- " Naderdani " ? 4 : 43
- " Dehati " ? 10 : 09

#### Disc three ? Shankar Family & Friends

All selections written by Shankar .

" I Am Missing You " ? 3 : 45  
" Kah?n Gayelav? Shy?m Saloné " ? 2 : 55  
" Supané Mé ?yé Preetam Sainy? " ? 4 : 15  
" I Am Missing You ( reprise ) " ? 4 : 03  
" Jaya Jagadish Haré " ( PD ) ? 4 : 54  
Dream , Nightmare & Dawn ( Music for a Ballet )  
" Overture " ? 2 : 33  
Part One ( Dream ) :  
" Festivity & Joy " ? 3 : 56  
" Love @-@ Dance Ecstasy " ? 3 : 13  
Part Two ( Nightmare ) :  
" Lust ( R?ga Chandrakauns ) " ? 3 : 13  
" Dispute & Violence " ? 2 : 43  
" Disillusionment & Frustration " ? 2 : 50  
" Despair & Sorrow ( R?ga Marw? ) " ? 3 : 04  
Part Three ( Dawn ) :  
" Awakening " ? 3 : 05  
" Peace & Hope ( R?ga Bhatiy?r ) " ? 4 : 31  
Disc four ? Music Festival from India ? Live at the Royal Albert Hall  
All selections written by Shankar .