[Template:Refimprove](/wiki/Template:Refimprove" \o "Template:Refimprove) [Template:Infobox musical artist](/wiki/Template:Infobox_musical_artist)

**Shakatak** are an [English](/wiki/English_people) [jazz-funk](/wiki/Jazz-funk) [band](/wiki/Band_(music)), founded in 1980.

[thumb|Shakatak performing at Knebworth Park as part of the Capital Radio Jazz Festival, 1982.](/wiki/File:Shakatak_01_KT.jpg) [thumb|Shakatak performing at Wuppertal, Germany, 2014](/wiki/File:2014-09-19_Shakatak_042.jpg)

Shakatak scored a number of [chart](/wiki/Record_chart) entries, including two [Top 10](/wiki/Top_40) [hits](/wiki/Hit_single) in the [UK Singles Chart](/wiki/UK_Singles_Chart), ["Night Birds](/wiki/Night_Birds_(album))" (1982) and "[Down on the Street](/wiki/Down_on_the_Street)" (1984), plus a further 12 entries in the [*Guinness Book of British Hit Singles*](/wiki/Guinness_Book_of_British_Hit_Singles).[[1]](#cite_note-1) The group is still active and popular throughout the world, particularly in [Japan](/wiki/Japan) and the [Far East](/wiki/Far_East), and generally produce a new [album](/wiki/Album) every two years on [JVC Records](/wiki/JVC_Records).

From their first release in August 1980, (the Bill Sharpe composition "Steppin'" on the [Polydor](/wiki/Polydor_Records) [record label](/wiki/Record_label)), and their first album, *Drivin' Hard*, the band's [singles](/wiki/Single_(music)) and albums have entered the charts regularly.

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## Career[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

It was the release of "Easier Said Than Done" that gave the band the [radio](/wiki/Radio) exposure needed for their first top-twenty hit. This record introduced their [instrumental](/wiki/Instrumental)-unison [vocal](/wiki/Human_voice) sound to a much wider audience, and the track stayed in the [UK Singles Chart](/wiki/UK_Singles_Chart) for seventeen weeks. The follow-up, "[Night Birds](/wiki/Night_Birds_(album))", was their first single to reach the [top ten](/wiki/Top_40), and the album of the same name gave Shakatak their first [gold album](/wiki/Music_recording_sales_certification), entering at number four and remaining in the charts for twenty-eight weeks.[[1]](#cite_note-1) By now a major international act, the success of the release gave them the number-one [jazz](/wiki/Jazz) album slot in Japan, and attracted interest across [Europe](/wiki/Europe) and [South America](/wiki/South_America). "Night Birds" was used in the feature film, [*Away We Go*](/wiki/Away_We_Go), directed by [Sam Mendes](/wiki/Sam_Mendes), and was used as the demonstration song on many Casio piano keyboards such as the Casio CT-460.

Two more albums – *Invitations* and *Out of This World* – were recorded in 1982 and 1983, resulting in several more chart hits, and paving the way for the next major breakthrough in the band's career. With a subtle change in musical direction, yet still retaining the band's identity, Jill Saward (formerly of [Fusion Orchestra](/wiki/Fusion_Orchestra), Brandy and Citizen Gang) became their sole [lead singer](/wiki/Lead_singer) to make Shakatak's fifth album, *Down on the Street*. The resulting single releases "Down on the Street" and "Watching You" had great success, and brought them attention in new parts of the world. The following year saw the release of the group's first [live album](/wiki/Live_album), which was recorded in both [Tokyo](/wiki/Tokyo) and [London](/wiki/London).

In 1988, Shakatak were commissioned to write the official song for the 1988 Kenwood Cup yacht race entitled *Racing With The Wind* which was used in Japanese [Kenwood](/wiki/Kenwood_Corporation) advertisements and was released on an album called *Da Makani* exclusively released in Japan.

However, following this success the band felt it was time that they re-directed their efforts back to singles and an album for release to the rest of the world. The result was *Something Special*, closely followed by the night club and chart hit "Mr Manic & Sister Cool" from their next [LP](/wiki/Gramophone_record), *Manic and Cool*.

In the 1990s, the band had success in the [US](/wiki/United_States) when they had two albums that went to No 1 in the contemporary jazz charts and were also awarded the Japanese Grammy for best international instrumental album six years running.

Shakatak continue to appear regularly throughout the world with recent festival performances at Jakjazz, the Jakarta International Jazz Festival, Bangkok, Hua Hin and the Bratislava Jazz Day. They make annual appearances at the Billboard Clubs in Japan, and the Pizza Express Jazz Room in London, plus numerous other concert and club performances.

The band celebrated their thirtieth anniversary year in 2010.

Bassist George Anderson released his second solo album, *Expressions*, on 3 September 2012 through [Secret Records](/wiki/Secret_Records). Coming three years after his first album *Positivity*, this album again had Anderson writing, arranging and producing all of the tracks.

Keyboardist Bill Sharpe worked with American [jazz](/wiki/Jazz) pianist [Don Grusin](/wiki/Don_Grusin) on a joint project called *Geography* released in 2007. Sharpe's second collaboration with Grusin, *Trans Atlantica*, was released on 3 September 2012. It was also issued through Secret Records, and included *Geography* as a special 2-CD package.

## Personnel[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

<gallery>

2014-09-19 Shakatak 013.jpg|Bill Sharpe

2014-09-19 Shakatak 040.jpg|Jill Saward

2014-09-19 Shakatak 002.jpg|George Anderson

2014-09-19 Shakatak 039.jpg|Roger Odell

2014-09-19 Shakatak 009.jpg|Alan Wormald (Tour)

2014-09-19 Shakatak 060.jpg|Debby Bracknell (Tour)

</gallery>

Current members

* [Jill Saward](/wiki/Jill_Saward_(singer)) — [vocals](/wiki/Singing), percussion, flute (1980–present)<ref name=saward><http://www.jillsaward.com> [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)</ref>
* [Bill Sharpe](/wiki/Bill_Sharpe_(musician)) — [keyboards](/wiki/Keyboard_instrument) (1980–present)<ref name=sharpe>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>
* Roger Odell — [drums](/wiki/Drum_kit) (1980–present)<ref name=odell\_1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=odell\_2>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>
* George Anderson — [bass](/wiki/Bass_guitar) (1981–present)<ref name=anderson>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Touring musicians

* Alan Wormald — [guitar](/wiki/Guitar)
* Jacqui Hicks — (backing vocals, sax & flute)
* Debby Bracknell — (backing vocals, flute)

Former members

* Keith Winter — [electric guitar](/wiki/Electric_guitar) (1980-1994)
* Jackie Rawe — vocals (1980-1983)<ref name=rawe>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>
* [Nigel Wright](/wiki/Nigel_Wright_(record_producer)) — keyboards (1980-1982)
* Steve Underwood — bass guitar (1980-1981)
* Norma Lewis — vocals (1983)
* Tracy Ackerman — vocals (1980s-1990s)
* Lorna Bannon — vocals (1982)
* Fridrik Karlsson — [electric guitar](/wiki/Electric_guitar) (1990s-2000s)[[2]](#cite_note-2)

## Discography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

### Albums[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

* 1981: [*Drivin' Hard*](/wiki/Drivin'_Hard)
* 1982: [*Night Birds*](/wiki/Night_Birds_(album))
* 1982: *Invitations*
* 1983: [*Out of This World*](/wiki/Out_of_This_World_(Shakatak_album))
* 1984: *Down on the Street*
* 1984: [*Shakatak Live in Japan*](/wiki/Shakatak_Live_in_Japan) (live)
* 1985: *Live!* (February 1985) (live)
* 1985: *City Rhythm*
* 1986: *Into the Blue* (issued in Japan only)
* 1987: *Golden Wings* (issued in Japan only)
* 1987: *Never Stop Your Love* (issued in Japan only, Japanese version of *Manic & Cool*)
* 1988: *Manic & Cool*
* 1988: *Da Makani* (issued in Japan only)
* 1989: *Niteflite* (issued in Japan only)
* 1989: *Turn the Music Up*
* 1990: *Fiesta* (issued in Japan only)
* 1990: *Christmas Eve* (issued in Japan only)
* 1991: *Bitter Sweet*
* 1991: *Utopia* (issued in Japan only)
* 1993: *Street Level*
* 1993: *Under the Sun*
* 1993: *The Christmas Album*
* 1994: *Full Circle*
* 1996: *Let's Start Over Again*
* 1997: *Let The Piano Play*
* 1998: *View From The City*
* 1998: *Live at Ronnie Scott's*
* 2001: *Under Your Spell*
* 2003: *Blue Savannah*
* 2005: *Easier Said Than Done* (live album)
* 2005: *Beautiful Day*
* 2007: *Emotionally Blue*
* 2009: *Afterglow*
* 2011: *Across The World*
* 2013: *Once Upon A Time (The Acoustic Sessions)*
* 2014: *On The Corner*

### Compilations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

* 1988: *The Coolest Cuts*
* 1990: *Perfect Smile* (issued in the US only)
* 1991: *Open Your Eyes* (issued in the US only, with 1 brand new track *Hungry*)
* 1991: *Remix Best Album*
* 1991: *Night Moves*
* 1996: *The Collection*
* 1996: *Jazz Connections Volumes 1-6* (6 compilation albums of their exclusive Japanese albums from the 80's and early 90's)
* 1998: *Shinin' On*
* 1999: *Magic*
* 1999: *Jazz In The Night*
* 2000: *The Collection Volume 2*
* 2002: *Dinner Jazz*
* 2003: *Smooth Solos*
* 2008: *The Best Of Shakatak*
* 2008: *The Ultimate Collection*
* 2009: *The Coolest Cuts 12" Mixes Volume 1*
* 2009: *The Coolest Cuts 12" Mixes Volume 2*
* 2012: *The 12 Inch Mixes*
* 2013: *More 12 Inch Mixes*
* 2014: *Snowflakes & Jazzamatazz*
* A three-part [compilation album](/wiki/Compilation_album) set, compiled by Roger Odell:
  + *Sunset Jazz*
  + *After Dark*
  + *Drive Time*

### Singles[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Single**[**[3]**](#cite_note-3)[**[4]**](#cite_note-4) | **Peak position**[**[5]**](#cite_note-5) |
| 1980 | "Steppin'" | — |
| "Feels Like the Right Time" | 41 |
| 1981 | "Living in the UK" | 52 |
| "Brazilian Dawn" | 48 |
| "Easier Said Than Done" | 12 |
| 1982 | "Night Birds" | 9 |
| "Streetwalkin'" | 38 |
| "Invitations" | 24 |
| "Stranger" | 43 |
| 1983 | "Dark is the Night" | 15 |
| "If You Could See Me Now" | 49 |
| "Out of This World" | 83 |
| 1984 | "[Down on the Street](/wiki/Down_on_the_Street)" | 9 |
| "Don't Blame It on Love" | 55 |
| 1985 | "City Rhythm" | 76 |
| "Day by Day" (with [Al Jarreau](/wiki/Al_Jarreau)) | 53 |
| 1987 | "Something Special" | — |
| "Mr. Manic and Sister Cool" | 56 |
| 1988 | "Dr. Dr." | — |
| "Time of My life" | — |
| 1989 | "Turn the Music Up" | — |
| "Back to the Groove" | — |
| 1991 | "Bitter Sweet" | — |
| 1993 | "One Day at a Time" | — |
| 1997 | "Let the Piano Play" | — |
| 1998 | "Move a Little Closer" | — |

### Videos[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

* 1984: *Twilight Sensation* [Laserdisc]
* 1986: *The Purely Music Concert Series* [Laserdisc]
* 2004: *Live at the Playhouse* [DVD]
* 2004: *In Concert* [DVD]
* 2005: *Live At Duo Music Exchange* [DVD]

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Commonscat](/wiki/Template:Commonscat)

* [Shakatak web site](http://www.shakatak.com)
* [[Template:Allmusic](/wiki/%5bTemplate:Allmusic) Shakatak biography] at the [AllMusic](/wiki/AllMusic) website

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control) [Category:English boogie musicians](/wiki/Category:English_boogie_musicians) [Category:English funk musical groups](/wiki/Category:English_funk_musical_groups) [Category:English jazz ensembles](/wiki/Category:English_jazz_ensembles) [Category:British post-disco music groups](/wiki/Category:British_post-disco_music_groups) [Category:Smooth jazz ensembles](/wiki/Category:Smooth_jazz_ensembles) [Category:Crossover (music)](/wiki/Category:Crossover_(music))