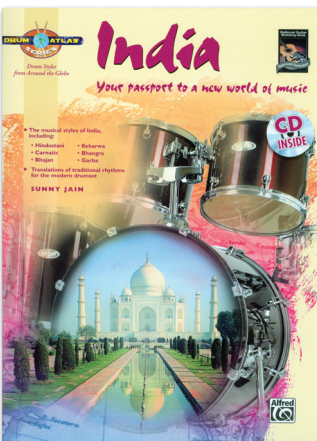


Music Reviews



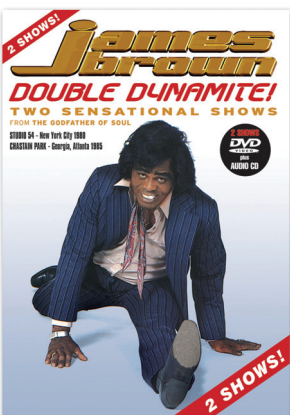
By Samir Shukla

Drum Atlas: India Your Passport to a New World of Music By Sunny Jain (Alfred) Book/CD



Drummer Sunny Jain has adapted his expertise in jazz and Indian drumming into a book exploring and teaching how to perform the rich rhythmic traditions of Indian percussion including tabla, dhol, mridangam. *Drum Atlas: India* is essentially for musicians and teaches techniques for Indian percussion in a manner that's simplified for students of all levels of expertise. For desi students, who have heard the rhythms of bhangra, garba, and other subcontinent folk music, the accompanying CD and the lessons in the book will make learning those beats a joy. For the non-native learner, Jain's book teaches applying and adapting Indian rhythms to a contemporary drum set. The NY-based Jain explains the theory behind tal (rhythmic cycles of various numbers of beats), bol (spoken syllables used by Indian percussionists to communicate drum patterns), as well as incorporating traditional Indian rhythms into other musical styles such as jazz and rock.

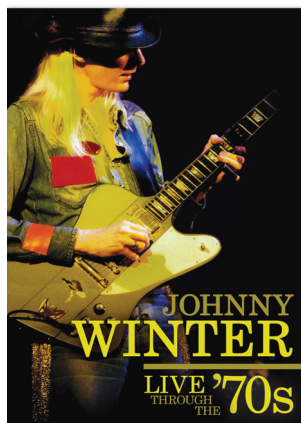
James Brown Double Dynamite (Charly) DVD



The godfather of soul trounces the audience during two performances captured on film and showcased on *Double Dynamite*. Brown's crack group of musicians and back-up singers are the foundation for his signature funk and soul. The camera angles and positions are relatively basic, but with Brown on stage there isn't much need for flashy or dizzying camera work. The booming music and Brown's persona

do the trick. The first show was recorded at NYC's Studio 54 during the waning days of disco in 1980 and the other is from Atlanta's legendary venue Chastain Park recorded in 1985. James Brown was a true legend, innovator and a major figure in the development of both soul and funk music. His influence on musicians in the pop, rock, R&B, and especially hip-hop worlds is vast. These two shows were recorded mid-career for JB, not his prime years but Brown still steals the show. In these concerts the famous JB's horns are a bit subdued and the guitar and keyboards are more in the front. The footage is, though, worth owning while the extras and career and song notes further detail Brown's musical genius. The band blazes through many classics including "It's Too Funky In Here," "Try Me," "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag," "Georgia on my Mind," along with jams and medleys. The bonus material highlights Brown's discography and biography. Few African-American musicians were as influential as James Brown over the course of their careers. Brown's performances were marvels of athletic stamina and timing. His multi-rhythmic beats and songwriting are forever etched in the history of not only black music, but also overall American music. James Brown died on Christmas Day 2006.

Johnny Winter Live through the '70s (Bullseye) DVD



Blues and blues-rock legend Johnny Winter is featured here in several live clips filmed during his musical heyday in the '70's. The live performances are interspersed with laid-back interviews that also reveal the witty, and cultural critic side of Winter. He blazed new grounds with a scorching blend of blues and rock beginning in 1969. Johnny Winter mixed rock and electric blues that influ-

enced bands from ZZ Top to Stevie Ray Vaughan. He produced and worked with legendary bluesmen like Muddy Waters. The archival performances featured on this DVD span the globe and include performances from Danish TV (Denmark 1970), the Royal Albert Hall in London (1970), the Beat Club in Bremen, Germany (1970), Don Kirshner's Rock Concert - Palace Theater in Waterbury, CT (1973), Soundstage - Blues Summit in Chicago, IL (1974), Musikladen in Bremen, Germany (1974), and Rockpalast in Germany (1979). Intermixed with the live content is interview footage at Detroit Tubeworks in Detroit, MI (1970). The DVD *Live Through the '70s* is a fine document of Winter in his guitar playing prime. Some of the songs played live include "Frankenstein," "Drop the bomb," "Johnny B. Goode," "Rock and Roll Hootchie Koo," and "Mississippi Blues." His brother Edgar Winter also appears in a couple of the performances. Johnny Winter continues to record and tour extensively.