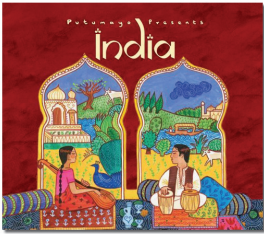


Music Reviews



By Samir Shukla

India: A Cultural Journey (Putumayo) CD



There are myriad cultural markers that define India. Music is just one thread of the fabric of that vast land. The compilation *India: A Cultural Journey* collects varied songs and compositions ranging from pop and ghazals to classical music. The tracks include

Canartic vocal styling of Bombay Jayashri in "Zara Zara," a touch of spirituality - Uma Mohan's "Shiva Panchakshara Stotram" and Deepak Ram's bansoori ode to "Ganesha," santoor master Satish Vyas's nimble playing in "Homeward Journey," and Canadian/Indian Kiran Ahluwalia's somber ghazal "Vo Kuch." Bollywood selections include the love ballad "Tere Bina," from the 2007 film *Guru*, written by acclaimed film composer and Oscar winner A.R. Rahman, and Rajeshwari Sachdev's "Maavan Te Tiyan," from the film *The Perfect Husband*. British/Indian singer-songwriter Susheela Raman blends her South Indian classical music training with Western jazz and acoustic folk influences in "Nagumomo." Several other tracks round out the compilation. There are so many styles of Indian music that it would be impossible to give a feel of the place in single disc collection. But *India: A Cultural Journey* is a fine primer on Indian music.

Ike Turner & the Kings of Rhythm Live in Concert 2002 (Charly) DVD

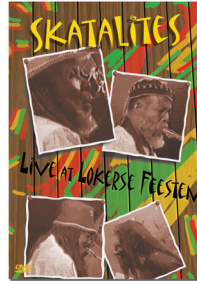


American music legend Ike Turner began his musical career in the late 50's with a style of funk, jazz, R&B and rock that has influenced hip hoppers and rockers alike. Turner and his ensemble are performing in a concert recorded and filmed at the 2002 North Sea Jazz Festival in The Hague. They play many Turner classics like "Nutbush City Limits," "Proud Mary," and "Rocket 88" that

still sounds feisty. Turner's piano and guitar work, along with his signature vocal style, don't sound dated or stale after decades of performing. Turner was a musician and composer along with a writer, music scout, arranger, and a of course performer who created a string of beloved hits. Turner's most memorable work was with his wife Tina Turner, a partnership that produced some of the funkier records of the Sixties and early Seventies. Ike's relationship with Tina, and

his drug abuse, sometimes overshadows his musical legacy. That's unfortunate because in this film Ike Turner shows he can still sizzle, decades after his best material was released. Other tracks on this film include "Chicken Shack," "Mercy, Mercy," "I've Been Loving You Too Long," and the funk classic "I Want To Take You Higher." Bonus material features Memphis Heroes Award 2004 (an 18-minute film of the Grammy Organization's 50th Anniversary celebration of Ike Turner's contributions to popular music) and The Early Years (a mini documentary chronicling Ike's R&B days in the early 50's). In 2007 Ike Turner won the Grammy Award for Comeback Album of The Year for *Rising With The Blues*. Turner, the man widely credited as making the first-ever rock 'n' roll record, died in December 2007, at the age of 76.

Skatalites Live at Lokerse Feesten (Charly) DVD



Ska and reggae legends the Skatalites have been performing for over 40 years. This DVD showcases the band's horns-driven chops in concert in Europe during two different performances filmed at the Lokerse Festival in Belgium in 1997 and 2002. The band, formed in Jamaica in 1964 by several of the island's top session musicians and their blend of R&B, jazz, calypso,

and African rhythms, introduced the world to ska music. Early ska eventually evolved into Jamaica's signature sound known as reggae. Even Bob Marley and the Wailers began their career in the early ska style. The Skatalite's single "Guns Of Navarone" became an international hit in 1967. The group broke up and reformed several times over the years while the concerts recorded on this disc shows that their bubbly ska and sinewy reggae has not diminished over the years. The songs include, "Freedom Sound," "Eastern Standard Time," "Guns Of Navarone," "Simmer Down," "Swing Easy," "Phoenix City," and more. The DVD also includes a year-by-year run-down of the group's achievements since it was first formed, the group in rehearsal and interviews with several members, old and new.

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