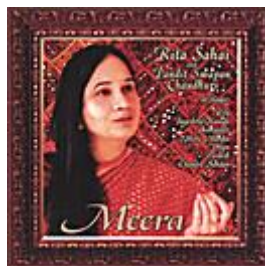


Mp3 Rita Sahai - Meera



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In seven memorable and touching original compositions, Rita Sahai's latest CD brings melodious rejuvenation to the eloquent message and heartfelt devotion of the legendary Indian poet-saint Meera (mirabai); featuring Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri on tabla. 8 MP3 Songs WORLD: Asian, WORLD: World Traditions Details: Born in Allahabad India, Rita Sahai was accepted at the age of nine as a disciple of renowned vocalist, Pandit Rama Shankar Mishra who groomed her in the romantic Benares Gharana style. After coming to the United States Rita continued her studies under the world famous sarod maestro Ustad Ali Akbar Khan where she trained in the Seni Allaudin Gharana style known for its creativity and purity of ragas. Impressed by her talent and passion towards music, Khan Sahib has given her the title Gayan Alankar (Jewell of Music). Rita, an acclaimed composer and performer, tours extensively throughout the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and India. She is also in demand at recording studios at home and abroad where she graciously lends her voice to many diverse musical projects including laying down vocal trax for Grammy Award winning blue grass artist Bella Fleck and performing on Alonzo Kings Sacred Texts, a CD of international music that won the Isadora Duncan award for music excellence. Rita has also performed live music for Alonzo Kings Lines Ballet and in May 2007, will perform with the North Carolina Dance Company. She has produced several CDs of her own, one of which, Rangamalika, was considered as a Grammy nomination in 2003. In the two decades that she has been in the United States, Rita has served as an ambassador of India's rich musical heritage. Through workshops and lectures she has reached out to the larger non-Indian community and educated them in the intricacies of Hindustani music. She conducts classes all over the Bay Area, from Sacramento and Berkeley to Fremont and San Jose. Her students come from varied musical backgrounds. For her Indo-American students, Rita's classes are a way of reconnecting to the art and culture of their mother

country. You are invited to join ongoing classes: Fremont Berkeley Hayward Sacramento San Francisco
Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced New Children's Classes in Fremont Rita is available for: CONCERT
APPEARANCES LECTURE WORKSHOPS SEMINARS MUSIC DEMONSTRATIONS AT COLLEGES
AND SCHOOLS RECENT PRESS RELEASE: August 10, 2006 Press contact: Selby Schwartz
selby@linesballet 415.863.3040 ext 224 Alonzo Kings LINES Ballet Announces New Project with Rita
Sahai: Alonzo Kings Lines Ballet will feature the music of Hindustani vocalist Rita Sahai in a new work
that will be part of the program for the Fall Home Season at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (Nov 3-5,
8-11). The piece, which will include live music played by North Indian musicians, will have its premiere
Sept 30th at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. Rita Sahai has been designated a Jewel of
Music and nominated for a Grammy Award; her previous collaboration with Alonzo Kings LINES Ballet
earned an Izzie Award in Music. Production and costumes will be designed by Robert Rosenwasser,
Associate Artistic Director, with noted lighting designer Robert Wierzel creating the lighting for the piece.
Songs Like Dreams: An Interview with Rita Sahai Music is part of me, says Rita Sahai simply. Sometimes
Im sleeping and music comes into my head and its so beautiful. I think that I am writing it down, and then I
wake up in the morning and I have only been sleeping. Born into a musical family in Allahabad, India, Rita
Sahai began training as a vocalist when she was nine years old. She studied first with Pandit Rama
Shankar Mishra, a renowned singer in the Benares Gharana style who happened to live in her town. Even
at that age, her gift for Hindustani music was recognized. When she asked her teachers for guidance,
they all replied with the same advice: Dont give up. Just keep singing. Years later, after the sarod master
Ustad Ali Akbar Khan has named her a Jewel of Music, and her album of Hori Festival songs, titled
Rangamalika, has been nominated for a Grammy Award, Rita Sahai continues to dedicate herself to
music. She practices several hours a day in her home in Berkeley, singing classical and light classical
ragas from North India. She enjoys Hindustani (or North Indian) music in particular, she explains,
because the vocalist is free to create, while the tabla player who accompanies her keeps the rhythm. With
a tabla player, I am free, I let go of the beat, and he is keeping the rhythm for me, she says, Then I can
come home again, because the tabla is like coming home in a song. She often works with musicians
whose instruments compliment her voice like a shadow, especially tabla, violin, harmonium, and flute.
Sometimes with a shadow, depending on the angle and where it falls, it becomes very long or very short,
or even very hazy but it follows me! she says with a smile. Her first experience working with Alonzo King

and LINES Ballet came in 1996, on the ballet Sacred Text, which won an Isadora Duncan Award for music. Remembering her feelings about performing with LINES Ballet, Rita Sahai recalls being struck by Alonzo Kings spontaneity and creativity. In fact, during the sound check, she was humming a different song than the one intended for the score of Sacred Text, when Alonzo King came up to her and began to listen. Yes, do this one! he said, and so the raga she had casually chosen just a song she felt like singing, while the theater crew fine-tuned the sound system was integrated into the score, which went on to receive that years Izzie Award. Rita Sahai describes the feeling when her inspiration arrives as something special, coming from my heart. When a writer writes a book, it is because he has something to say; it is the same with music for me. When she begins to develop songs for a piece with Alonzo Kings LINES Ballet, the musical process is intimately related to the choreographic one. I need to see the dance first, she says thoughtfully. Even a little bit of it. Then I can create. In addition to giving concerts of ragas of many different styles devotional thumri, political and popular bhajans, monsoon-inspired classical songs, romantic and seasonal ragas, etc. she teaches Hindustani vocal music to a broad range of students, including those in the Ethnomusicology graduate program at UC Davis. I like to teach my students: true feelings, Rita Sahai explains. Its very heart-warming, heart-touching, to feel the music. You must fall in love with each note... and then these notes will come dancing to you. Selby Schwartz

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