

Mp3 Dave Stringer - Brink



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Lap steel, tablas, accordion, violin, dumbek and muted trumpet give lush support to haunting vocals in Sanskrit, English and Farsi, a distinctive blend most succinctly described as Country and Eastern music. 8 MP3 Songs WORLD: World Fusion, FOLK: Modern Folk Details: Please note: The fully packaged 'commercial' version of this CD, (which originally comprised eleven songs, along with a booklet of lyrics, translations, and credits), is currently unavailable. The version offered for sale on this website is the original 'yoga studio' version. The packaging is minimal, and the CD is comprised of eight songs. The price has been adjusted accordingly. ***** "Songs that unite spiritual and secular interests in a surprisingly seamless blend. Ingenious arrangements that incorporate a fluid mix of Eastern and Western instruments... a sequence of elegant aural rainbows." - Yoga Journal "Stringer is an amazing, passionate performer. No, this isn't just gentle, soothing new age music and shouldn't be mistaken for it. It is there to engage the listener and speaks in an intuitive manner to the soul within." - Amazon.com "Dave Stringer has integrated his interest in Kirtan, an Indian tradition of devotional chanting, with his masterful grasp of Western popular music, creating an exciting style of psychedelic pop as informed by traditional Eastern music as the Beatles." - All Music Guide "His voice, resonant and luxurious, moves the record." - Yoga Chicago Magazine "An amazing supporting cast some of the deepest vocal, chant-oriented music in a long time." - Backroads "Great work! I understand our similar musical schizophrenia... Awesome. Killer production. Great singing. Great songs." - Jai Uttal ++++++ One of the most engaging, eclectic and thoughtful musicians to have arisen from America's steadily expanding yoga community, Stringer has developed a vast following through his non-stop touring and compelling performances. Brink is a cinematic exegesis of sophisticated pop melodies and traditional Eastern music

that achieves a level of intimacy rarely felt on a studio album. There are elements of World, Rock, Americana, and Jazz on Brink all tied together by a songwriter deliberate in his craft, trying to come to terms, through poetry, with his emotional and spiritual quandaries. Stringer's voice conveys a sense of grandeur as it plays across maturely constructed arrangements in lyrics that are English, Sanskrit or a purely improvised emotional language. Brink has an impressive supporting cast, including vocal duets in Sanskrit with Donna de Lory, Hindi with Azam Ali, Farsi with Mamak Khadem, and English with Lionel Cole. Hans Christian of Rasa and Greg Ellis of Vas co-produced the record, contributing udu, dumbek, trumpet, santoor, cello and sarangi to the mix of instruments. The tracks also feature Suzanne Teng on flute and piccolo, and showcase Stringer's faculty on harmonium, dulcimer, tamboura, accordion and guitar. The songs on Brink are an exploration of love, identity and purpose where Stringer integrates western and eastern song styles with seductive rhythms and deep introspection in an accessible hour-long journey. ++++++ The Graham Weekly Album Review #1287 Dave Stringer: Brink by George Graham / WVIA-FM Back in the 1960s there was a burst of interest in traditional Indian music, with the Beatles, and especially George Harrison, journeying to the sub-continent, and absorbing its music and spirituality, to the point that the traditional Indian instrument, the sitar, became almost synonymous with the psychedelic movement. The American public lost interest with time, but the popularity of world music over the last decade or so has seen some revival of interest in Eastern sounds, with performers like Shielia Chandra, and the late Pakistani singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. This week, we have a fascinating recording that combines Western musical values with Indian influences, though less the familiar sounds of Indian classical music, but instead is based on what is called kirtan, or chant singing. It's a CD by Los Angeles-based Dave Stringer called Brink. Dave Stringer's involvement with Indian music was almost accidental. With a background in the visual arts and also as a jazz musician who did some composing for dance troupes, Stringer came to work in the Hollywood movie industry as a film editor. About his only interest in Eastern religions and philosophy was taking classes in yoga to relieve a painful back injury. One of the people he met at an ashram in Los Angeles hired him as an editor for a documentary in India. Stringer reluctantly took the job, rather than face unemployment in Los Angeles, and journeyed to India, where he soon became fascinated by the chants in the ancient Sanskrit language. At first, he did not understand the words, but he was drawn by their sound. He began to play some of them on a dulcimer and accordion

that he had brought with him for entertainment. In the meantime, Stringer's job was to distill lectures by the gurus there to 15-minute-long short film features meant for teaching beginners. After the film project was done Stringer decided to stay on in India, volunteering to teach in a school, and absorbing as much of the chant style as he could, including learning from the children he was teaching. After returning to Los Angeles, he began working with a group that taught meditation and chanting, and then for several years worked teaching chanting at various prisons. Eventually, Stringer became involved with leading a group practicing kirtan singing in Santa Monica, and that lead to various invitations from Yoga centers around the country, so that Stringer now does the music full-time. In addition to making his own music, Stringer has worked as a producer for some artists in the New Age field, including the group Axiom of Choice, and performed on CDs with artists like Hans Christian and Vas. Kirtan is the Sanskrit word for singing, and it is an ancient form that arose in Eastern India, involving call and response of various mantras that gradually grows in intensity, as the gathered people begin clapping and dancing. Stringer's new album Brink does not have a great deal of that aspect of it, but the Eastern drone-like chants are very much in evidence, and a few of the tracks have lyrics in Sanskrit. Brink, while showing a good deal of Eastern influence is hardly an album of traditional music. The CD mixes Eastern and Western influences easily, often with traditional Indian instruments like the tamboura and tabla drums mixing with music in Western 3/4 or 6/8 time, with unexpected combinations of instruments including harmonium -- a pump organ -- cello and trumpet. Appearing with Stringer are some of the people with whom he has worked in the past, including Hans Christian, who plays cello, Suzanne Teng, heard on flute, plus Jay Bellerose on drums, Greg Ellis on percussion, and David Zasloff on trumpet. The CD has a mix of pieces with English lyrics, along with traditional chants and poems in Sanskrit, in one case dating back to the 9th Century. But despite the traditional material, the sound is contemporary, with enough domination by Western influences that it does not come across as a particularly exotic world music album. Dave Stringer's Brink is a fascinating and distinctive record in the way it mixes Indian and Western sounds. That concept was something of a cliché in the 1960s psychedelic era, mixing sitars and tablas with electric guitars, but in the current period of interest in World Music, there have not been that many Indian fusion efforts, and Stringer's emphasizes a rather different facet of Indian music, the kirtan singing tradition, together with the meditative aspect. While the CD can approach new age at times, a distinguishing feature is that the Western music side contains a lot of interesting and artistically substantial ingredients, while the

instrumentation is a wonderful eclectic blend with skillful arrangements and first-rate musicianship. This is music that one can not only use for meditation, but also makes edifying foreground listening. Our grade for sound quality is rather close to an "A." The music is well recorded, and mix engineers Hans Christian and Thomas Barquee resisted the temptation to get overly spacey with the reverb effects, avoiding the hackneyed overly atmospheric sound of much new age music. The dynamic range, the scope from loudness from softest to strongest, is also better than average. There are those purists for whom anything less than strict authenticity in styles is reason to dismiss a work as unworthy. Brink does not pretend to be authentic, and drawing as it does on both intelligent composition in the Western tradition, and the ambience of the Eastern sounds, the result is a fine album that rewards listening on a number of levels.

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