

Globalization and Culture
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Lecture – 28
Beatles, Ravi Shankar and Sitar

Hello, we now move on to the next way of interest in India and all of (Refer Time: 00:25) in Indian and in this unit all focus on the 60s country culture and the interest in Indian religion of course, but also in Indian music with the historic collaboration between Pandith Ravi Shankar and the Beatles.

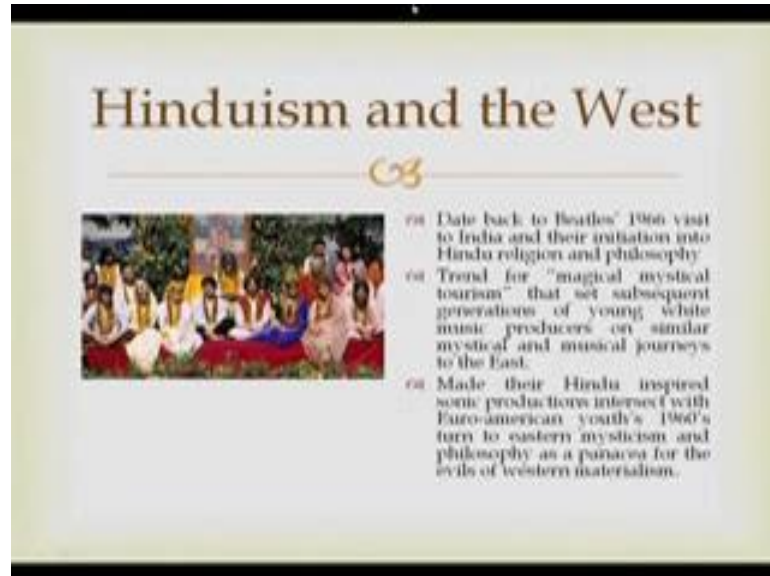
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Now, what I would like to point out is that these 3 elements or all the elements are not really disconnected, but they seem to be intricately interwoven into one and other because he says interest in Hinduism and spirituality, which began in the 1920s and which continued in the 1960s, which created interest in Hinduism and India in the west particularly among western youth. The interest in music Indian music Indian classical music is a subset of this larger interest of the west in Indian the mysticism in spirituality, in also just like Yoga which I talk to about earlier the interest in Indian classic music and famous jugalbandi between George Harrison and Pandith Ravi Shankar is part of it is larger wider interest in Hinduism and spirituality as an answer to the crises in the west. The leaders may be become instrumental in the igniting this India wave the exotitisation

of India and the west the fad for India and the west due to their own popularity in the western world and also in the entire world.

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Hinduism and the West

- Date back to Beatles' 1966 visit to India and their initiation into Hindu religion and philosophy.
- Trend for "magical mystical tourism" that set subsequent generations of young white music producers on similar mystical and musical journeys to the East.
- Made their Hindu inspired sonic productions intersect with Euro American youth 1960s turn to eastern mysticism and philosophy as a panacea for the evils of western materialism.


So, dating back to Beatles you will pick up again the 60s movement, which we mentioned earlier. Dating back to Beatles 1966 to visit India and the initiation into Hindu religion and philosophy; Hinduism has attracted a number of people particularly youth in the west. The trend for magical mystical in tourism has John Henthorn said that set subsequent generations of young white music producers on similar mystical music journeys to the east. These are made the Hindu inspired sonic productions intersect with Euro American youth 1960s turn to eastern mysticism and philosophy as a panacea for the evils of western materialism.

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Beatles and Prabhupada



- 01 At a Christmas reception at Apple Studios, the Beatles were holding a press conference about their upcoming Abbey Road album. John peeked out from the pressroom, scanned the crowd assembled for the reception, and made a quick exit out of the building. Ringo peeked out and did the same, followed by Paul.
- 02 George peeked out, looked around the room, and spotted shaven-headed Shyamsundar, one of Swami Prabhupada's main disciples.



Now we began with the Beatles of its historic meeting with Prabhupada and a Christian reception at Apple Studios the Beatles were holding a press conference about their upcoming Abbey Road album. John peeked out from the press room scanned the crowd assembled for reception and made a quick exit out of the building ring (Refer Time: 03:46) and the same followed by Paul George Peter, looked around the room and spared the Shaven Herred Shyamsundar one of Swami Prabhupada's main disciples.

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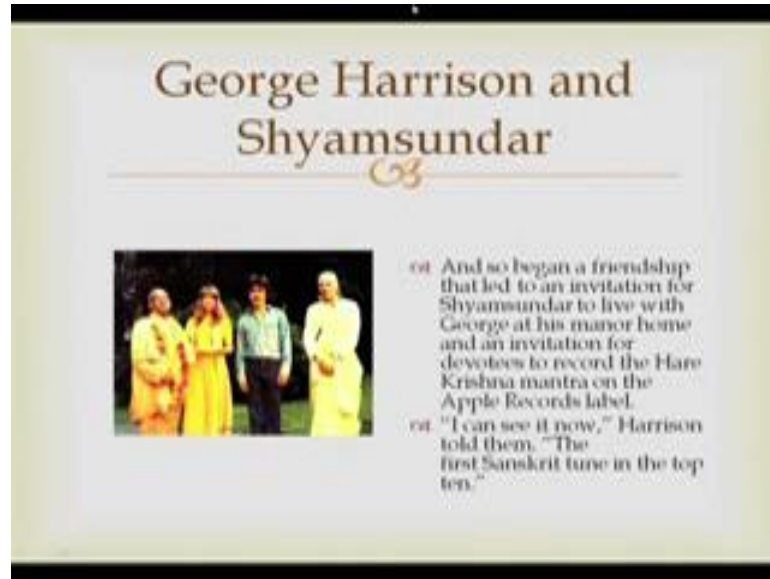
Krishna Chant Startles London



- 01 George had seen a photo of him with the other devotees in a *Times of London* article titled "Krishna Chant Startles London."
- 02 The article reported on the devotees' arrival in England and their plans for opening a temple. George walked over and said, "Where have you been? I've been waiting to meet you."

Krishna Chant Startles London this is the headline in a times of London articles George at seen the photo of him with the other diverties in times of London articles title Krishna Chant Startles London. The article reported on the devotees' arrival in England and they planes for opening a temple. George walked over and said where you have been I have been waiting to meet you.

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And so began a friendship that led to an invitation for Shyamsundar to live with George at his manor home and an invitation for devotees to record the Hari Krishna mantra on the apple records label. I can see it now Harrison told them the first Sanskrit tune in the top 10. So, this is the first chant that the Indian spiritual music joint on the top of the charts lastly through its adoption by one of the most iconic groups of the time.

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So, we look at my sweet lord Harrison attempted to fuse the messages of the christian and Gaudiya faiths into what his biographer described as a gospel incantation with Vedic chants through alternating the Christian and Jewish term of praise hallelujah with the Sanskrit hare Krishna. So, let us look at the renderings of the maha mantra the original renderings and the renderings by George in his my sweet lord and have to play this. So, you have to play with me in see, how the maha manthra songs in George version and the original maha mantra version let us take a look. People to know that some reason with try it with does not work videos listen to it we see and ok we will go back to it. So, what Harrison attempted to was that he heard this ancient manthra the maha mantra of god of Vishnu faith and he created its own version of it in his song my sweet lord a fusing it with Christian and Jewish term of praise with the Sanskrit hare Krishna.

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My Sweet Lord



The simple English lyrics reflect the devotee's desire to have a direct communion with god:


My sweet lord
My sweet lord
Really want to see you,
Lord, but it takes so long,
my Lord.
I really want to know you
Really want to go with you
Really want to show you,
Lord, that it won't take long
my Lord (1970)



And the simple English lyrics reflect the devotees desire to have a direct communion with god. Let us look at the lyrics and we listen to the song later. My sweet lord My sweet lord Really wants to see you, Lord, but it takes too long, my Lord. I really want to know you, Really want to go with you, and really want to show you, Lord, that it would not take long my lord.

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Beatles' and Hinduism

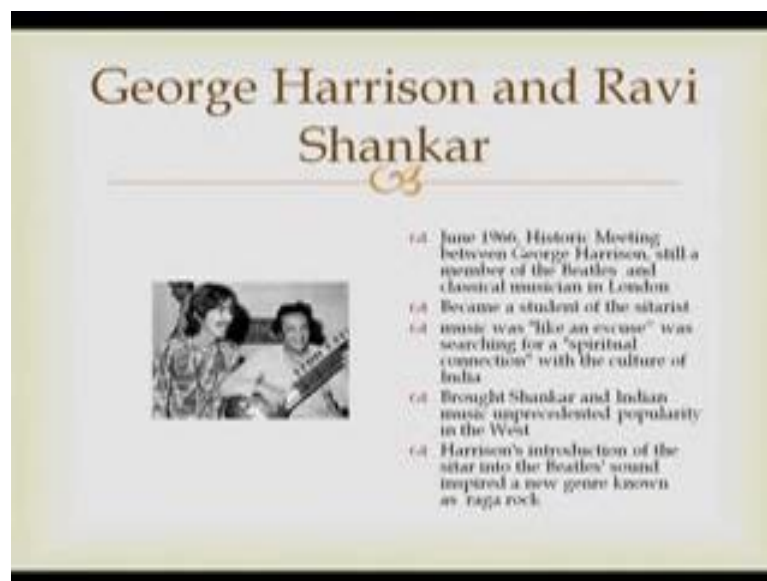


- 01 When the Beatles visited India to study transcendental meditation, there was a rapid expansion in interest in Hinduism.
- 02 Young people were already heading east on the so-called Hippie Trail, looking for spiritual enlightenment and an escape from the material lifestyle of the West.
- 03 Paul Oliver examines the lifestyle which they adopted, from living in ashrams to experimenting with drugs, sexual liberation, ayurvedic medicine and yoga.

So, this is much later of course, when the beatles in particularly Harrison, lent his voice and his support to the Hare Krishna movement. The hare Krishna movement became women's popular in the west particularly in UK in England and North America.

When the beatles visited India to study transcendental meditation there was a rapid expansion in interest in Hinduism. Young people who already heading east on the so called hippie trail as we saw that is spread into the larger cult for India in the west. West to solution with its own crisis in my modality looking for spiritual enlightenment and an escape from the material life style the west; Pawl Oliver examine the lifestyle which they adopted from living in ashrams to experimenting with drugs, special liberation, Ayurvedic medicine and Yoga. So, make love not war which was slogan of the hippies dissolution with the idea of (Refer Time: 08:38) were return to spirituality and mysticism to tide over the crises in western in done modality.

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George Harrison and Ravi Shankar

- ca. June 1966, Historic Meeting between George Harrison, still a member of the Beatles and classical musician in London
- ca. Became a student of the sitarist
- ca. music was "like an excuse" was searching for a "spiritual connection" with the culture of India
- ca. Brought Shankar and Indian music, unprecedented popularity in the West
- ca. Harrison's introduction of the sitar into the Beatles' sound inspired a new genre known as raga rock

It was in June 1966 that the historic meeting between George Harrison one of the beatles and one of the greatest called masters of India Pandith Ravi Shankar to place. It is still George Harrison was still a member of the beatles at that time and classical musician and Ravi Shankar was the classical musician and this (Refer Time: 09:12) place in London. After this meeting that Harrison became a student of the Sitarist. Music was like an excuse he said for spiritual connections with the culture of India. So, as I said this desire of the west to get the way of western materialism and look at eastern spirituality and

mysticism is then answer to the problems of the western converged on music Indian music spiritual devotional music classical music and also practices like yoga. This is the three cannot really be seen in isolation from one and other because the larger objective is to find us spiritual connection with India.

And this connection brought Shankar and in Indian music unprecedented popularity in the west and its introduction of the Sit or into the Beatles sound inspires a new genre known as raga rock. What is important? That to be image of India as a spiritual mystical entity which was first produced by the orientalist and continued well into the 20th century in with the Gurus and the teachers of Yoga. This image is perpetuated to the collaborations between the Ravi Shankar and Harrison was music becomes this idea of music construction of music as spiritual and mysterious and as a means to attain spiritual salvation. This misrepresentation as some have called it of Indian music as sacred and as embedded in spiritual or religious practices began with its historical collaboration between Pandith Ravi Shankar and George Harrison.

This articulation of spirituality to music, in classic music, which was begun in 19th century Europe, that idea of the articulation of spirituality to music in Indian classical music began much earlier of a sort in the construction of classical music in India in the 30s self, but due to the high profile of (Refer Time: 11:57) both Pandith Ravi Shankar and George Harrison, these images of spirituality the link between the under stable link between or the mapping and spirituality on classical music became normalized and naturalized in the western imaginary not just in the west imaginary, but also in the Indian national imaginary through this jugalbandi between Harrison and Ravi Shankar or even Kavya. So, in all things must pass in 1971 as a solo artist with his all things must pass triple album 1970 Harrison began working with Shankar as his producer.

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All Things Must Pass

1971




- 08 An solo artist with his *All Things Must Pass* triple album (1970), Harrison began working with Shankar, as his producer
- 08 Released on the Beatles' Apple record label
- 08 Soundtrack to the documentary film *Raga*, Shankar's joy *Bangla e p* recorded to raise international awareness for the plight of refugees of the Bangladesh Liberation War
- 08 Live album *The Concert for Bangladesh* which documented the UNICEF benefit concerts that Harrison and Shankar staged in New York that August




Released on the Beatles Apple record label, sound and this he also the soundtrack to the documentary film *Raga*, Shankar's joy *Bangla e p* recorded to raise international awareness for the plight of refugees of the Bangladesh liberation war; the live album *The Concert for Bangladesh* which documented the UNICEF benefit concerts that Harrison and Shankar staged in New York at August. So, we look at how the two articles one from India and one from the west the popularization and from UK and classical musician from India collaborate to work for well peace and try to use music and to solve the problem of the west such as the Bangladesh war and settle other concerts later.

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Guru Shishya



Twenty-three years older than Harrison, Shankar described their relationship as, variously, that of father and son (with each one adopting either role); close friends; and teacher and student. Author Ian Inglis has commented on the various differences between the two musicians, in terms of age, culture and social status: "And yet, in another sense, these contrasting factors helped to produce personal or professional spaces and separate music could fill, and ultimately a partnership that was never



Now, I must look at the relationship between Ravi Shankar and Harrison which is (Refer Time: 13:49) to the relationship between Guru and Shishya. So, we have instead of this ancient Indian tradition of Guru and Shishya are the more of learning prevalent in India, how this is expanded to include the disciple from the west and how this reverses the stereotype of the east in the west as east as lacking in history and culture and civilization went when an iconic figure like George Harrison falls at metaphorically and literally falls at Ravi Shankar's speech to teach him to instruct him.

So, that creates a new image of India and the west it reverses in India the image of India in the west as the take up, instead now we have an image of India as the giver where India has a lot to gift to the western world and this is symbolically conveyed through one of the most important icons so between 20th century its turning to western spiritual and spirituality in which Ravi Shankar's music is RNS. Classical music becomes symbol of his enlightenment or the Indian secret spirituality, which the west. West is believed to be lacking. So, the relationship is quite understandable given that 23 years older than Harrison Shankar describes relationship as that of father and son close friends and teachers and students. An author Linglis is commented on the various differences between the two musicians in terms of age, culture and social status and he had a another sense those contrasting factors helped to prevent any professional or personal rivalries produced spaces and separation that the music could fill and ultimately created a partnership that was never prepared but collaborative.

So, this is what Harrison says Ravi Shankar's probably the person who is influence my life the most in this wearing sharing of the shall shows a jugalbandi the close relationship between enjoyed.

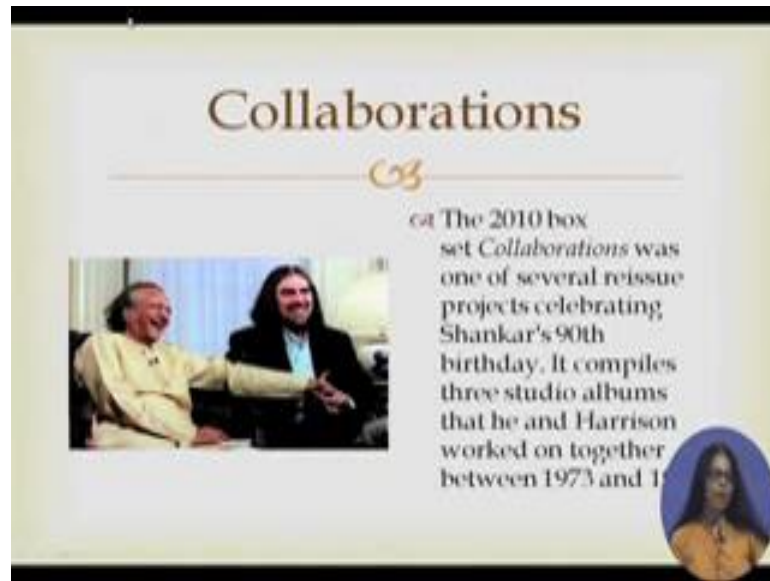
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ca. While their collaborations continued only intermittently after the mid 1970s, the depth of their friendship remained, such that Harrison would credit Shankar as being "the person who has influenced my life the most". When Harrison died in November 2001, following a four-year battle with cancer, Shankar was at his bedside, along with members of Harrison's family.

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Collaborations

ca The 2010 box set *Collaborations* was one of several reissue projects celebrating Shankar's 90th birthday. It compiles three studio albums that he and Harrison worked on together between 1973 and 1996.

Shankar Family & Friends (1974)
Ravi Shankar's Music Festival from India (1976)
Chants of India (1997)

The first two of these albums had long been out of print, and their inclusion in the box set marked the debut CD release for both titles.

Disc four contains a previously unissued concert film from 1974, titled *Music Festival from India - Live at Royal Albert Hall*.

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East and West

ca *Shankar Family & Friends (1974)*,
ca *Ravi Shankar's Music Festival from India (1976)*
ca *Chants of India (1997)*.

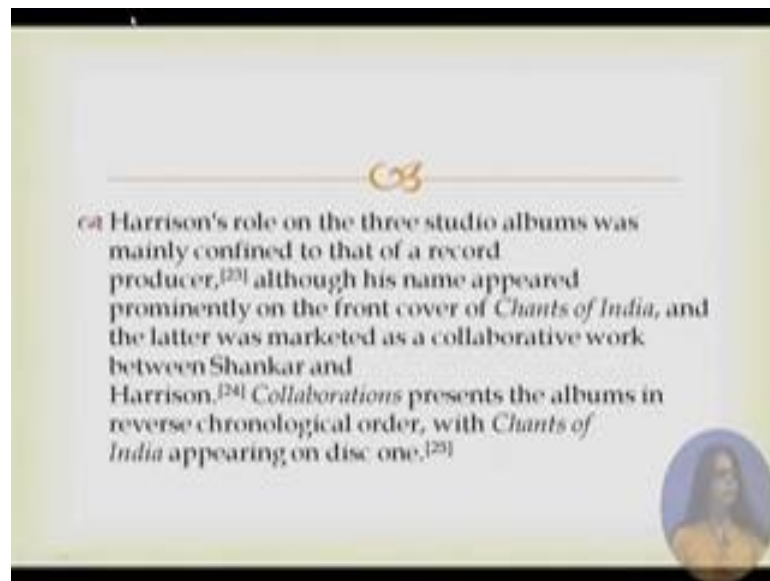
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So, this continued the east west jugalbandi continues in Shankar's family and friends Ravi Shankar's music festival from India 1976 Chants of India 1997 the first two of these albums had long been out of print and their inclusion in the box set marked the WCD release for both titles. Disc for contains a previously unissued concept film from 1974

title music festival from India live at the Royal Albert Hall. So, we looked at the collaboration between the Beatles and particularly George Harrison and Ravi Shankar has an understanding of how the 1960s use in the 1960s the cult for Indian Hindu philosophy and mysticism converge on Indian spiritual, Indian classical music on the figure of Pandith Ravi Shankar to look at music and spirituality as well as yoga and meditation as Upanasya for the evils of the western civilization.

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Harrison's role on the three studio albums was mainly confined to that of a record producer, although his name appeared prominently on the front cover of Chants of India and the latter was marketed as a collaborative work between Shankar and Harrison. Collaborations presents the albums in reverse chronological order, with Chants of India appearing on disc one.

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So, conclude by saying that Ravi Shankar collaborated not only with Beatles, but that means, the most visible collaborations. He has collaborated with many other musicians including a (Refer Time: 19:42), but the collaboration between him and Beatles has been the most visible because it helped in the construction of the 60s counter culture in the west, counter culture which converged on Hindu spirituality, Hindu religion, Yoga, Meditation and Hindu devotional music to resist western civilization.

So, once again we find as in the past the orient Hindu mysticism for last philosophy Yoga meditation and music are all summoned to the service of Europe, or decadent west looking for solution to the problems and constructs the east or the orient as an alterity to its own materialisms, its own individualism and way of solving the crises in identity in the 60s in the west. We listen to some of the music produced in the 60 by the Beatles, which created counter culture music for Indians music in the west, not only call in Indian music, also ignited or catalyzed or was used in several of the spiritual movements which began in the 60s such as the Hare Krishna conscious this movements through George Harrison (Refer Time: 21:22) of the maha mantra and its compositions of my sweet lord, later on in the construction of this image of India as the spiritual mystical nation which we founded in with the collaboration between Ravi Shankar and George Harrison.

I will end it to my PPT, so that at the end of the lecture you can listen to the music.