



The Hanumen (2013)
Liner Notes

Tracks

1. Govinda
2. Come Dance with Me
3. Walking to the River
4. Wade in the Water
5. I Love You
6. Zydeco Hare Krishna
7. Manipuri Hare Krishna

The Hanumen

A mystic poet, a bass player, and a storyteller walk into a bar. They bump into a bunch of multi-instrumentalists, singers, and percussionists.

WHAM! Sounds like pundemonium?!?! This must be a joke ... or it's ... The Hanumen.

Named after Hanuman, a brave monkey warrior devotee featured in the South Asian mystical history Ramayana, The Hanumen are John de Kadt, Benjy Wertheimer, Gaura Vani, Purusartha Dasa, and Jahnavi Harrison. They aspire to also be like Hanuman (when they grow up) and offer their lives in the service of Sita and Rama.

The Hanumen transport us to a world of unforgettable music, mystic poetry, world-rhythm, poignant stories, humor, and Mantra Music — a journey to the deepest part of the soul. The Hanumen create a soulful and ecstatic celebration of Nada Yoga (sacred sound and vibration) and Bhakti Yoga (love and devotion in a humble mood of service) with an array of unique instruments from around the globe.

Highly trained in the sacred music of India and Africa, yet rooted in Americana and Western music, the Hanumen perform an original mix of improvisational sounds, song, and story with call-and-response chant in English and Sanskrit. These vibrations awaken the senses to their original spiritual nature — and fill the audience with feelings of eternity, wisdom, and joy.

The Hanumen remind us to become the change we envision in the world and join the world's next great Mantra Revolution. Some say that won't happen until pigs fly. We say, "How about flying monkeys?"

The Album

This album was recorded live in Benjy's home studio in Portland, Oregon. Four of us sat in the room and played these songs until they felt right. Most of what you hear is exactly how it went down. We also wanted to include friends from as far away as London who couldn't physically be there, so we invited them in using "modern technological wizardry." Many albums these days are made in a pretty sterile studio

environment. Our process is old-school. It allowed us to capture the live energy that is so vital to the “Hanumen Experience.” There are also imperfections that have become, for us, a beautiful part of this offering. As Benjy says, “The minute imperfection consummates the whole of beauty.”

The Hanumen are proud to support (and be supported by) The Call & Response Foundation, a charitable organization whose mission is to bring Mantra Music to one million people by the year 2020.

Mantra Music is a reincarnation of the ancient Indian practice of Kirtan, call-and-response group chanting, practiced for millennia by the people of South Asia. Very much alive today, this music offers a fresh perspective and holistic entertainment as participants both hear the music as an audience and help to create it, responding with their own voices.

Album Dedication

Shyamdas – The lila continues.

Pieter Pim de Kadt – May you dance up through the roof.

The Inmates and Volunteers at the Oregon State Correctional Facility

Thank Yous

Heather Wertheimer, nurturing and infinite patience – John Conley, loaning the harmonium – Tulasi Sadkin, support, assistance, and withstanding the “testosterone tsunami” – Vrinda Rani Buchwald, Revati, Kairava and Kirtan, for keeping my heart with you and the other monkeys in the tree – Jen Canfield and The Call & Response Foundation, loving and unswerving support – Ed & Susan, visionary energy – Kirtan Soul Revival, kind and generous collaboration – Bhakti Svarup Damodar Swami, for the “Manipuri Hare Krishna” tune – the incredible friends who host and produce us on tour, including Susan and George Mason, our family in Maine (with the best rehearsal space in the world) – Sally Narkis, Lisa Silverman and family, Grace Ogden, Anila, Vanamali, Shyam, Amrita and Kunja, for the blessed studio space – Our Teachers: Srila Prabhupada, Radhanath Swami, Ali Akbar Khan, Zakir Hussain, Subash Chandran, Ganesh Kumar.

CREDITS

Musicians

John de Kadt: Spoken word, cajon, hang-drum, kanjira, frame drum, shaker, jokes, percussion, ghatam, backing vocals

Benjy Wertheimer: Vocals, esraj, tabla, classical and steel-string guitar, shakers, puns, percussion, congas, keyboards, claps, snaps

Jahnvi Harrison: Vocals, violin, vinaloo

Gaura Vani: Vocals, harmonium, guitar, shaker, shaking, claps

Puru Sadkin: Bass, percussion, Gita classes, backing vocals

Steve Gorn: Clarinet, bansuri flute, brotherly love

Todd Keller: Electric guitar on "I Love You" & "Govinda"

Singers

Devi Choir: Peia Jessyka Luzzi, Janna Hearn

Kirtan Soul Revival: Todd Keller, Calia Marshall, Helen Styring Tocci

Oregon Choir: Lisa Mae Osborn, Molly Padulo, Sean Frenette, Lindsey Stormo, Heather Wertheimer, John Conley, Michael Stirling, Lynea Gillen

Recording & Production

Benjy Wertheimer: Recording & Mixing

Gaura Vani: Additional Recording & Production Support

Cass Anawaty: Mastering

Mark Kelso: Recording poetry for "Wade in the Water"

Todd Keller: Recording KSR Choir

Additional Credits

"Come Dance with Me" & "Manipuri Hare Krishna" – Poetry from the Penguin publication *The Gift, Poems by Hafiz*, © 1999 Daniel Ladinsky, used with permission

"Wade in the Water" – Poetry from *Translations by Coleman Barks from The Essential Rumi*, used with permission

"I Love You" – Lyrics and Music, © 2011 by Gaura Vani

Photos and Design

Philip Sadkin: band photos

Susan Littlefield: Block Island (mud shot)

Adideva Cuffee: photo of Puru

Gaura Vani Buchwald: cover design and photo

Rasa Acharya: layout and design

“After a long day of non-violent protests, I love to kick back with my Gita, open up a cold lassi, and crank up the music of The Hanumen.”

“When I’m riding into battle against the forces of tyranny, I like to play The Hanumen on my iPod.” – Joan of Arc

“This would have been my favorite band if I’d been alive to hear them.” – Groucho Marx

“Man needs only two things to be happy – a dancing partner, and track six from The Hanumen’s new album.” – Nietzsche

“I’ve always imagined how my poems would sound with Puru playing that funky bass to accompany them.” – Mirabai

“These guys abide.” – The Dude

“Om.” – The Buddha

©&® 2013 The Hanumen, under exclusive license to Mantralogy & Equal Vision Records, Inc.
PO Box 38202, Albany, NY 12203-8202 All rights reserved.

www.hanumen.com

www.mantralogy.com

www.equalvision.com