

Shantala

The Music of
Heather and Benjy Wertheimer



Below is some information that will help you in your promotions of Shantala Music. If you are hosting us, we will also provide you with an additional document with promo tools for events. To arrange an interview with Shantala, please contact Parvati LaPoint, Production and Creative Director, at info@shantalamusic.com.

About The Events...

Sacred chanting (kirtan) has its roots in the sacred music of ancient India. Kirtan is a celebration of spirit through the chanting of sacred names, carrying the audience into a state of heightened awareness, bliss, and devotion. The audience is invited to participate fully through call-and-response chanting, dance, and meditation.

About The Artists...

Benjy and Heather Wertheimer have been leading kirtan (sacred chanting) worldwide since 2001 as the duo **Shantala**. They are known for their special gift of bringing the audience into a vast and loving experience through their unique blend of exquisite voices with instruments of India and the West. Together they create music with beauty, passion, and reverence. Heather and Benjy have released nine beautiful and well-loved albums of sacred chant music since 2003, including *Living Waters*, *Jaya*, *LIVE in love*, *Sri*, *The Love Window*, *LIVE2love* and *FIVE*. They also have a passionate international online following, with hundreds of thousands of YouTube video views, millions of iTunes/Apple Music downloads, and millions of streams on Spotify.

Shantala has performed and recorded internationally with such sacred music luminaries as Krishna Das, Deva Premal & Miten, and Jai Uttal.



(download these images at full resolution at shantalamusic.com/promo)

Heather Wertheimer is a kirtan artist, singer, songwriter, and guitarist who combines her special love of both music and yoga to lead devotional chanting internationally. With a rare ability to sing directly from the heart, she infuses sacred chanting with a powerful sense of peace and depth. Heather has toured in the U.S. and abroad with her husband Benjy, Steve Gorn, Manose, and Deva Premal & Miten. Heather's debut CD with Shantala, *Church of Sky*, was named by New Age Retailer as one of the top ten albums of the year. It has been aired on radio stations internationally. Heather brings the richness of her healing background as a therapist, meditation teacher, and yoga teacher into the practice of kirtan. Since 2017, Heather has been an authorized teacher of Neelakantha Meditation as taught in Blue Throat Yoga.

Master musician **Benjy Wertheimer** is an award-winning songwriter, vocalist, composer, producer and multi-instrumentalist (playing tabla, congas, percussion, esraj, guitar, and keyboards). His extraordinary and unique musical gifts from East and West create a sense of wonder and awe in the listener. In addition to touring with **Shantala**, Benjy is a founding member of the sacred music ensemble **The Hanumen** (including Gaura Vani, John De Kadt, and Visvambhar Sheth of the Mayapuris) and has toured and produced two CDs with them since 2009. Benjy joined David Michael and Grammy winner Nancy Rumbel to form the **Confluence Trio** in 2019. They released their first CD, *Confluence*, in May 2019.

Benjy has toured and recorded with such artists as Krishna Das, Deva Premal & Miten, Jai Uttal, Walter Becker (Steely Dan), and virtuoso guitarist Michael Mandrell. He has opened for such artists as Carlos Santana, Paul Winter, and Narada Michael Walden. A founding member of the internationally acclaimed **Ancient Future** world fusion music ensemble, Benjy also toured the U.S., Canada, and Japan with renowned bamboo flute master G.S. Sachdev. He has studied Indian classical music for over 40 years with some of the greatest masters of that tradition (including Alla Rakha, Zakir Hussain, Ali Akbar Khan and Z. M. Dagar). Benjy has produced 18 CDs since 2000, which receive extensive airplay around the world, and his CD "Circle of Fire" went to #1 on the New Age radio charts. Benjy is also in demand as a scoring composer, having scored for such varied projects as NBC's *Santa Barbara* series and the Emmy-nominated documentary *SEED: The Untold Story*.

Please visit shantalamusic.com/music/ to sample tracks.

Musician Contact Info:

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Stay connected with Shantala:

Website: www.shantalamusic.com

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/6z6YXTlyMCY6fvT79yxDgi>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shantalamusic/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/shantala_music/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN2zbrVF50EUPelcWvvVEBg>

Videos: [Govindam Adi Purusham](#) and [Mahadeva](#)

