

K.G. WESTMAN

HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL SITAR & SURBAHAR

RESUMÉ



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BIOGRAPHY

K.G. Westman is one of Europe's foremost sitar and surbahar players in the field of North Indian classical music. As a senior disciple of Pandit Rabindra Narayan Goswami he has performed in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Egypt, Europe, USA and Russia as well as for radio and T.V.

Due to training in both Indian and western music, he also makes an excellent teacher and conductor of workshops regardless of the background of the participants. He is also one of the founders and main organizers of the Stockholm Sangeet Festival, Scandinavia's most prestigious event for Indian Classical Music and dance, which has run continuously for over 15 years.

The interest in Indian music began when his father moved to Kerala in 1996. Already an accomplished guitar player and recording artist, he tried his hand at the Saraswati Veena, before making up his mind that the sitar was the instrument for him. In 2004 he started to learn the basics of sitar technique, raag and taal, first from Stian Grimstad, then also from Anil Singh of Dharmashala, before he was accepted as a student of Goswamiji in 2006. He has since then returned to the Goswami House in Varanasi every year for learning more raagas and to deepen his understanding of the art.

In 2017 the album *Sonashish* was released on the Kolkata label Bihaan Music and in 2022 he released the Swedish-Indian-Egyptian collaboration *KG Westman & Za Zafaran*. In 2023 he was the first Swede to release an Indian classical LP - *Anandpriya*.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

- 2023 -49th Dhrupad Mela in Varanasi
 - Dhrupad Mahamilan Baithaki in Bishnupur
 - Kala Prakash organized concert in Varanasi
- 2022 -Three weeks tour in Europe together with guru Pandit Rabindra Narayan Goswami ji
- 2020 -Gulab Bari Holi concert with singer Archita Bhattacharya for SBI officials in Mumbai
 - Concert organized by Kala Prakash in the Amrit Rao Peshwa Haweli in Varanasi.

- 2019 -Resource person and performer in the International Music Seminar at **University of Rajasthan**
-**Sankat Mochan Masik Sangeet Sabha** in front of the Mahant of Sankat Mochan
- 2018 -Tagore Centre at **Indian Embassy in Berlin**
-**Amherst College** in Massachusetts
-**Stockholm Sangeet Festival** at Södra Teatern, performance with Guru Pt. Rabindra Goswami
- 2017 -Performance at **Stockholm Kulturfestival** with Stockholm Sangeet Allstars music and dance project
-**Indian Cultural Centre** in Colombo arranged by ICCR
-Solo recital in **The Buddhist TV-Channel**, that was aired nationally in Sri Lanka
- 2016 -**Subah-e-Banaras 501-day Celebration** in Varanasi
-**Swadeshi Mela** in Varanasi
- 2015 -**Sitar in Saint Petersburg Festival**, performances in House of Composers and State Academic Capella
-**Namaste Stockholm** by **India Unlimited**
-Private recital in Delhi in front of **Padma Bhushan Ustad Sabri Khan**, Polish Ambassador and others
-Concert for the American Study Abroad Program in Varanasi with Guru Pt Rabindra Goswami
- 2014 -**Dharma & Asha Festival** in Kungsträdgården, Stockholm
-Duett performance with Stian Grimstad aired on **Radio Västernorrland**
- 2013 -**Ravi Shankar Memorial Concert** at Stallet in Stockholm
- 2006 - -**Radio Stockholm**

WORKSHOPS & LECTURE/DEMONSTRATIONS

- 2022 -One full week of workshops for local music teachers at **L'Arche** in Villerupt, France.
- 2019 -**Himalaya Inter College** in Chaukori, Uttarakhand
-**Sacred Music Festival** at the Sri Vast Centre in Tamil Nadu
- 2018 -**The Attic** in New Delhi
-One full week of workshops for classes of the **European School** in Luxembourg
-**St. Georges School**'s music program in Luxembourg
-ANASEA at University of Luxembourg
-**Sacred Music Festival**, Divinya in Eslöv, Sweden
-**Blossoms Village Resort** in Himanchal Pradesh
- 2017 -ANASEA at Luxembourg University
-**Sacred Music Festival**, in Sjöbo, Sweden
- 2016 -**Indian Classical Music Appreciation Course** at Nirvana Café in Luxembourg
-**Ecole Premiere** Luxembourg

BESIDES CLASSICAL

2002-2013 Playing guitar, keyboards, electric /acoustic sitar, composing and touring with **Siena Root**. Playing 290 shows in 17 countries, recording, producing and releasing 6 albums, one single and one DVD.

2007-2016 Playing guitar, keyboard and electric/acoustic sitar with **Öresund Space Collective** live in Scandinavia and U.S. as well as in recording sessions, releasing more than ten albums.

2008-2011 Playing keyboards with Tor-Peders Kapell, touring in Sweden and Baltic States, releasing one single and one full length album that was voted “Best Album Ever in the Existance of Fruit De Mer Record Label”.

RECORDING EXPERIENCE

KG is since 2020 working as a **music creator** and has produced more than 50 tracks for Epidemic Sound.

Recorded sitar as studio musician for several different producers and artists such as

Pete Davies, Magnus Frykberg, Awa Manneh, Andreas Unge, Oscar Raga, Victoria Moralez, Jelena Jangfeldt Jakubovitch, Fredrik Klingwall and others, including music for albums and film music as well.

PROJECTS

Since 2013 owner of **Sharda Music Sweden** that offers concerts, lectures and workshops on Indian Classical Music. The company also includes video production and an analogue audio recording studio.

Co-founder and Managing Director of **Stockholm Sangeet Festival**, Scandinavia’s most prestigious festival for Indian Classical Music and Dance that has been running since 2007, inviting artists such as Zakir Hussain, Niladri Kumar, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Ustad Shujaat Hussain Khan, Pandit Uday Bhawalkar and more.

Co-founded and was board member of **Nacka Musikförening** that provided rehearsal studios and concert oppurtunities for young musicians in Nacka in the 1990’s.

MUSIC EDUCATION

SITAR STUDIES

2006 to present: Advanced raga study under **Pandit Rabindra Narayan Goswami**

2005 - two months intense study in India with **Shree Anil Singh**

2004 - two years weekly lessons from **Stian Grimstad**

OTHER

2017 - **Recording with digital tools**, online course on using Cubase by Linné University

2002 – **Musicology** at Stockholm University

2001-2002 - **Rock Music Program** at Birkagården

2000-2001 – **Afro-American Music Studies** at Kulturama in Stockholm, year 2

1998-1999 - **Afro-American Music Studies** at Kulturama in Stockholm, year 1

1995-1998 – **Music Program** at Nacka Gymnasium

LANGUAGE

Swedish-native

English-fluent

Hindi/Urdu -conversational

German-basic

Arabic -beginner