

K.G. WESTMAN

HINDUSTHANI CLASSICAL SITAR

RESUMÉ



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BIOGRAPHY

K.G. Westman is one of Europe's foremost sitar players in the field of North Indian classical and semi classical music. As a senior disciple of Pandit Rabindra Narayan Goswami he has performed in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, 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.

K.G. Westman is 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 a decade.

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. Then 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 2013 he also gave up all other musical commitments to focus completely on the Sitar.

In 2017 the album Sonashish was released on the Kolkata label Bihaan Music.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

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
 Namaste Stockholm by **India Unlimited**
- 2017 - **India Day Celebration** on the main square in Luxembourg
 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 - Namaste Stockholm by **India Unlimited**
Subah-e-Banaras 501-day Celebration in Varanasi
 Duet with Siddhart Bannerjee, Siddh-Veena player at **Benares Hindu University**
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** in Stockholm
- 2006 - **Radio Stockholm**

WORKSHOPS & LECTURE/DEMONSTRATIONS

- 2019 - **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 classic rock act **Siena Root**. Playing 290 shows in 17 countries, recording, producing and releasing 6 albums, one single and one DVD

2007-2016 Playin guitar, keyboard, 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 voted “Best Album Ever in Existance of Fruit De Mer Record Label”

RECORDING EXPERIENCE

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 Jakobovitch, 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 an analogue recording studio and video production

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 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