

STRINGS FOR PEACE: Premieres for Guitar & Sarod
Sharon Isbin, guitar; Amjad Ali Khan, sarod/composer
Amaan Ali Bangash, Ayaan Ali Bangash, sarods; Amit Kavthekar, tabla
BEST OF 2020 -- #2 AMAZON WORLD MUSIC CHARTS



“A remarkable spiritual and emotional journey ... Sharing the great unique treasures of their own artistic traditions ... Combining the guitar and sarod results in an extraordinary blend.” ***Rolling Stone***

BEST OF 2020 “A spectacular collaboration exploring North Indian classical music ... melody, mystique and mood all wrapped up in an hour-long virtuosic journey ... at once calming and exciting, brilliant ... like so many beautiful sunrises ... Fantastic fidelity”

Audiophile Review

“Extraordinary guitarist Sharon Isbin delivers some fantastic music ... It seems to be tapping into something timeless and beautiful and powerful ... uniting us with each other and with the planet itself.” ***New Jazz Releases***

“Seasoned musicians who are at the top of their game, working to bring their musical worlds closer together. Reminiscent of partnerships in the past—remember John McLaughlin and Shakti, Yehudi Menuhin and Ravi Shankar, the Beatles, and others—this is music worth hearing!” ***American Record Guide***

BEST MUSIC OF 2020 “I also love the dialogue back and forth between Sharon's guitar and Ayaan's sarod...It's HIGHLY sensual, both in a spiritual way and in a kind of sexy way!” ***NPR All Songs Considered***

“Exotic and hypnotic swirl of moods, tempos, string modulations and colorful intertwining ... A constantly engaging aural feast to behold, the ebb and flow of the strings is fascinating, buoyed along by the seductive grounding and grooving percussion ... A realm where cultures can discover common ground and create a more peaceful world, starting with music.” ***JD Vibe***

BEST OF 2020 “The overall character is distinctly Indian, Isbin’s guitar fits in perfectly, soaring expressively in her many spotlight turns ... Her virtuosity and obvious comfort in this setting allow the guitar to be an equal partner in this fascinating and completely satisfying fusion of Indian and Western styles. Check it out!” ***Classical Guitar Magazine***

BEST OF 2020 *Deep Roots*

“Written and arranged specifically for Isbin’s transcendent musicianship, as well as for her deep, intuitive understanding of this thrilling music. Isbin’s sibilant and precise guitar work is the perfect complement for Khan’s ancient sarod ... Languid, dreamy drone tones conjure up the magic and mystery; *Love Avalanche* is a rousing, rhythmic celebration, involving an intricate and melodic musical conversation between Isbin and Khan. The irresistible *Sacred Evening* is an experience of gentle, fragile beauty as well as a dip into the eternal sea of oneness that we are all a part of.” ***The Whole Note***

“Isbin has chosen to follow the route originally pioneered by Yehudi Menuhin in exploring and collaborating with South Asian musicians, reaping the joy of collaboration. The end result enhances both. Here we have master sarod player, Amjad Ali Khan and his very accomplished sons, Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash. They are dazzlingly accompanied by tabla player Amit Kavthekar ... Lucid and a joy to the ears ... The music has a joyous directness that comes from performers who have mastered their craft.” ***New Music Buff***

“Groundbreaking powerful Premieres for Guitar & Sarod ... I was just stunned to discover this new album. ... emotional and inspiring ... spiritual enlightenment and sonic joy ... if any music can inspire unity – it is this. **MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**” ***Contemporary Fusion Reviews***

“Emotive and lovely ... Isbin plays flawlessly here, and the players are equally impressive on this cultured, powerful and meticulous take on classical Indian music that will absolutely enthrall fans of world music.” ***Take Effect Reviews***

“Magnificent musical experience” ***Carlini CD Reviews***

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“Lustre and subtlety ... masterfully orchestrated.” *New York Music Daily*

**** (4 Stars) “The musicians demonstrate a visceral understanding of how music connects us all on this planet. Performances of deep feeling and mystical splendor that emphasize the need for peace, harmony and understanding.” *Roots Music Report*

“Magnificent Sarod and Guitar Interchange. *Strings for Peace* is a fabulous set of four ragas composed by Indian sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan for guitarist Sharon Isbin ... Beautiful, evocative pieces showcase the marvelous interplay between the sarod and the classical guitar.” *World Music Central*

“In what is probably her most indie record ever, La Isbin strays about as far afield from the world of classical guitar as you can imagine with this set of specially composed ragas from an immanent raga family. With a light enough touch to make this not feel like a tour through an opium den, it's a first class trip to the mysterious east where you just don't know what's beyond the next turn but you can't stop pushing forward. Out of the ordinary but totally hot throughout.” *Midwest Record*

“Shimmering, thoughtful and poignant” *All About Jazz*

“**Marco Polo and Mastermind of a Silk Road Project Of Her Own.** The guitar phenomenon Sharon Isbin, who knows no borders ... ambitious exotica redolent of India and China ... silken blend of Western and darkly sensuous Hindustani sonorities.” *Beyond Criticism*

“*Romancing Earth* with Amjad on sarod is gloriously stately ... This is a groundbreaking record!” *Songlines Magazine*

“Sophisticated and lively ... hypnotic and exciting” *MusicWeb International*

“**Pick of the Month May 2020** - A new articulation of Hindustani classical music. For all libraries.” *CD Hot List*