

sistashree



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<https://presskit.to/sistashree>



Devotional musician Sistashree has had a rich and diverse musical career. With deep musical roots in soul, blues, jazz, funk, and gospel music and over 30 years studying the ancient practice of mantra meditation, Sistashree has a deep devotion to sacred sound.

"My sound is organic – it is raw, it is the essence of my ancestors, it is black and beautiful".

Growing up the fields and plains of Oklahoma, Sistashree's inspiration first came from holding mud in her hand and seeing God in that mud; subsequently feeling the possibility of life through the speckles of earth. As a child, music was a daily part of her life; growing up in a household always full of music and the songs of her mother. Sistashree has her roots in gospel, where she sang in the children's choir at her local church. Recognized for possessing a strong vocal talent she was enrolled in voice lessons.

Discovering the practice of yoga at age 16, Sistashree felt an overwhelming sense that her musical journey was leading her to places more expansive and heart-opening than she had ever imagined. It was 1963 when Sistashree first truly acknowledged the power of music: watching famed American gospel singer Mahalia Jackson march on Washington allowed Sistashree to witness sound as a mobilizing and stabilizing energy – an engine for truth, love, and peace. Other notable influences on Sistashree are the strong female songstresses Tina Turner, Etta James, and Shirley Ceasar. To Sistashree, these powerful women "activated a spirit inside my soul that made me want to sing praises to God".

In the mid-1980's Sistashree felt the call of India; she travelled to an Ashram in the North to begin her first foray in the the ancient practice of mantra-meditation. The fusing of ancient mantras and gospel music came immediately to her in a very organic way. The rhythms were familiar to her soul and the words ignited her *kundalini shakti*—"pure joy, pure knowledge and pure love." To Sistashree, the fusion of sounds was a marriage from the heavens. That very first experience of India called Sistashree back time and again; subsequently she has devoted over 30 years, studying, travelling and performing in India.

Throughout her decades-long career, Sistashree has been blessed and honoured to play with some of the great masters of jazz: [James Blood Ulmer](#), [Charles Burnham](#), [Bernard Pretty Purdie](#) as well as [Bill Henry](#), and has been invited to perform at events throughout the U.S. and India. Sistashree has produced seven musical compilations, her latest entitled *Lord Ram*.

Lord Ram is dedicated to the great Alice Coltrane, the most important person in Sistashree's spiritual life, credited with igniting her shakti. The sounds encompassed on *Lord Ram* are timeless like a live wire with extra batteries to sooth, elevate, and relax the soul; moving you from darkness and into the light. *Lord Ram* is a thank-you to Sista Alice for giving Sistashree joy, love and life.

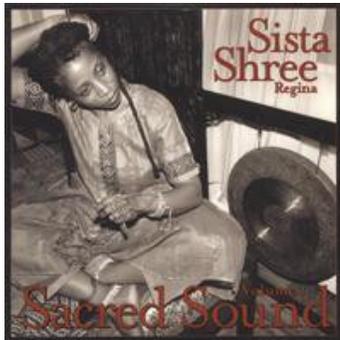
What Sistashree enjoys the most about performing is the magic that is created together with her band Hanuman and the audience; the combined effort to praise God together as one.

Currently, Sistashree splits her time between India and the United States.

"First Sistashree recorded *Sacred Sound* as she experienced the ethereal gospel of India's Great Indus Valley. With wings on her back she flew high into the Himalayas and chanted *High Places*. The Pilgrimage to Varnasi, Shivas City, Humbles the Soul Taking Us From Darkness to Light and from Death to Immortality"

Discography

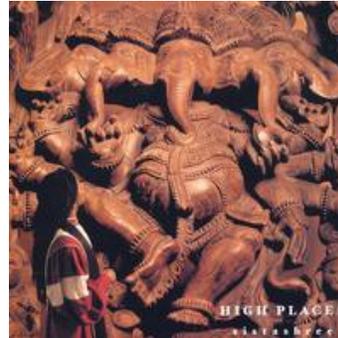
–James Blood Ulmer, American Jazz & Blues Guitarist & Singer



Sacred Sound

This debut combines soul with the mysticism of common Indian mantras.

Released: 2000
© 2000 Sistashree



High Places

A blend of melodic grooves that embraces cultures globally.

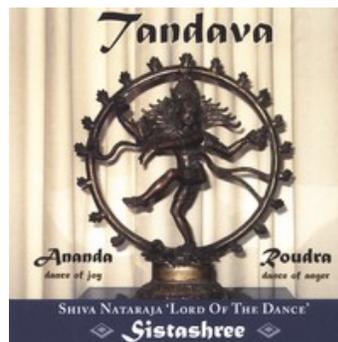
Released: 2001
© 2001 Sistashree



Asatoma

A unique blend of ancient Sanskrit mantras woven into rock, funk and jazz.

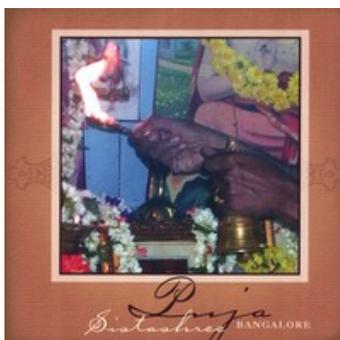
Released: Sep 30, 2005
© 2005 sistashree



Tandava

Spiritual, devotional mantras meet R&B funky jazz.

Released: Nov 13, 2007
© 2007 Sistashree



Puja

High voltage devotional funk

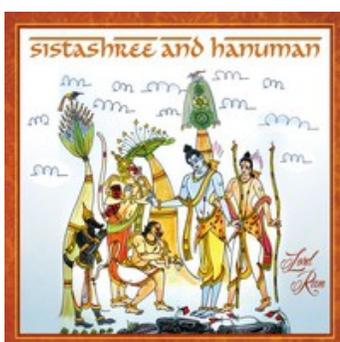
Released: Nov 15, 2007
© 2007 Sistashree



Unplugged in India

A live compilation of Sistashree's unique sounds.

Released: Dec 31, 2010
© 2010 Sistashree



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Released: Feb 12, 2013 © 2013 Sistashree And Hanuman

Past Engagements

May 04, 2013	Sistashree & Hanuman: A Soulful Night of Devotion at Laughing Lotus NYC
May 09, 2013	Sistashree & Hanuman: A Soulful Night of Devotion at Land Yoga NYC
May 18, 2013	Sacred Sound: A Devotional Workshop at Harlem Yoga Studio
May 25, 2013	Sistashree & Hanuman: A Soulful Night of Devotion at Ashtanga Yoga Shala NYC
May 31, 2013	Sistashree & Hanuman: A Soulful Night of Devotion at Ashtanga Yoga Montclair
June 16, 2013	Sistashree & Hanuman: A Soulful Night of Devotion at Harlem Yoga Studio
Sept 23-28, 2013	Yoga Moves Bali Retreat with Eileen Hall
Oct 30-Nov 2, 2013	Ashtanga Center Rishikesh with Louise Ellis

For a full list of upcoming tour dates and details, please visit <http://sistashree.com/events/>

Links

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[Sistashree interview with Michelle Meiche of Awakenings](#)

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