

Florida International University
School of International and Public Affairs
Program in the Study of Spirituality
spirituality.fiu.edu

PRESS RELEASE

"The Spirituality of Indian Music," Feb. 22 @ FIU

"The Spirituality of Indian Music" will be explored by Peter Lavezzoli and a distinguished group of musicians on Monday February 22, 2010, at 7 p.m. In the Graham Center Middle Ballroom on FIU's Modesto A. Maidique Campus, 11200 SW 8th Street, in West Dade.

The program, sponsored by the Program in the Study of Spirituality and the Institute for Asian Studies, is free and open to the public.

Peter Lavezzoli, an FIU honors graduate in Religious Studies, is a musician and musicologist who authored the most comprehensive study to date of Indian classical music's impact on the West, *The Dawn of Indian Music in the West*, an award winning book for its historical research, insightful interviews with musicians ranging from Ravi Shankar to Philip Glass, and engaging prose.

In this event, Peter will address how the spiritual nature of Indian classical music has transformed Western culture--beginning with the arrival in the US of Ravi Shankar, to the Beatles' journey to India for meditation training, and beyond. Most important in today's global climate, Peter will discuss how the centuries-old tradition of Hindu-Muslim unity in Indian music is an important message for us all.

Four distinguished musicians from the South Florida community will share their experiences on the spiritual

nature of Indian music, through words and live musical performances.

Rajesh Bhandari

(<http://abacus.bates.edu/dancefest/accompanists.php>) is one of the most respected and successful tabla (Indian drums) players of his generation, and a disciple of the greatest living maestro of the instrument: Zakir Hussain.

Stephan Mikes (<http://www.stephanmikes.com>) has long been the foremost sitarist in South Florida, and one of the most respected in the US. He is a student of the illustrious Roop Varma.

Jeff Deen

(<http://www.wix.com/takdinadin/drummingforwellness>) is a tabla and percussion maestro who has long specialized in the healing and meditative aspects of.

Jorge Alfano (<http://www.jorgealfano.com>) is one of the most respected facilitators in Sound Healing in the world, as well as a multi-instrumentalist who specializes in flutes and wind instruments, especially Japanese shakuhachi and the Indian bansuri.

Peter Lavezzoli invites everyone to share in a special evening of live music and discussion with these four prominent musicians and himself. Bring open ears and burning questions!

#####30#####