

Official Press Release: *For immediate release*

Shantala

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Shantala

Friday, June 15th, 2012 at 7:00pm

Presented by XYZ Movement Arts • 689 Airport Center Rd.

Tickets \$20 available online or from XYZ

Contact info: info@shantalamusic.com • www.shantalamusic.com, www.xyzmovementarts.com

Please find the above information regarding an upcoming **sacred chanting concert (kirtan)** in your area that features Indian music and participatory devotional singing. Thank you for posting this in your arts and entertainment calendar. To assist in featuring this event, photos are attached. The musicians are available for interviews via phone and in person. Please forward this email to anyone else in-house who may be interested. **Demo CDs** are available upon request. We would be happy to add you to the **guest list** for the event - please send an email to info@shantalamusic.com.

Thank you for your service!

About The Event...

XYZ Movement Arts Studio will be hosting a unique musical evening of sacred chanting (kirtan) on Saturday, June 15 at 7:00 pm. On the heels of their popular 2012 concert in, Shantala returns to Friday Harbor for another special evening of call-and-response chanting, dance, and meditation. The band, orchestrated by Benjy and Heather Wertheimer, will feature Grammy Award winning bamboo flute master, Steve Gorn as well as Sean Frenette on bass, vocals and three string guitar. Shantala leads kirtan worldwide with soul-stirring vocals, sacred lyrics and exotic instrumentation. The weaving of Benjy's Indian classical singing and instrumentation with Heather's soaring vocals is freshly original and profoundly moving. Together they create music with beauty, passion, and reverence.

This is open to people of all religious backgrounds, to those who have chanted before as well as to those who haven't. Participation is welcome but purely optional. Come and share in this journey of musical ecstasy.

Tickets are available online and at XYZ studio for \$20 (check their schedule for purchase just prior to classes). Questions? Call Mary Karen Ryan 378-2524.

Sacred chanting (kirtan) has its roots in the sacred music of ancient India. It is growing rapidly in popularity in the West along with the rise of yoga in American culture. Chanting events involve active audience participation and are open to people of all religious backgrounds. The music carries the audience through a journey of etheric beauty, ecstatic percussion, and singing with the devotion of the heart. It is a celebration of life, love, and the beauty of the human spirit.

About The Artists...

Benjy and Heather Wertheimer lead kirtan (sacred chanting) worldwide as the duo **Shantala**, with soul-stirring vocals, sacred lyrics and exotic instrumentation. The weaving of Benjy's Indian classical singing and instrumentation with Heather's soaring vocals is freshly original and profoundly moving. Together they create music with beauty, passion, and reverence. Shantala has performed and recorded internationally with such sacred music luminaries as Krishna Das, Deva Premal & Miten, and Jai Uttal. In summer 2008, they were named as one of the top "Wallahs to Watch" by Yoga + Joyful Living. Kirtan is a celebration of spirit through the chanting of sacred names, carrying the audience into a state of heightened awareness, bliss, and devotion. The audience is invited to participate fully through call-and-response chanting, dance, and meditation.

Heather Wertheimer is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist who combines her special love of both music and yoga to lead devotional chanting for yoga workshops and spiritual gatherings internationally. Heather has toured in the U.S. and abroad with her husband Benjy, Steve Gorn, Manose, and Deva Premal & Miten. Heather's debut CD with Shantala, "Church of Sky," was named by New Age Retailer as one of the top ten albums of 2004. It has been aired on radio stations nationwide. In April 2003, she and Benjy released "The Love Window," a beautiful and well-loved collection of sacred chants. In 2007, they released "Sri," their second popular kirtan CD, and their first live CD "LIVE in love" was released in 2008.

Benjy Wertheimer is an award-winning songwriter, vocalist, composer, and multi-instrumentalist (playing tabla, congas, percussion, esraj, guitar, and keyboards). Benjy has toured and recorded with such artists as Krishna Das, Deva Premal & Miten, Jai Uttal, Walter Becker (Steely Dan), and virtuoso guitarist Michael Mandrell. He has opened for such artists as Carlos Santana, Paul Winter, and Narada Michael Walden. A founding member of the internationally acclaimed Ancient Future world fusion music ensemble, Benjy also toured the U.S., Canada, and Japan with renowned bamboo flute master G.S. Sachdev. He studied Indian classical music for over 25 years with some of the greatest masters of that tradition (including Alla Rakha, Zakir Hussain, Ali Akbar Khan and Z. M. Dagar). Benjy's CDs receive extensive airplay around the world, and his CD "Circle of Fire" went to #1 on the New Age radio charts in November 2002.



Please visit www.shantalamusic.com/cds.htm to sample tracks off *Jaya!*, *Ocean of Sound*, *LIVE in love*, *Sri*, *The Love Window* and many others.