



**Dave
Stringer
Divas
& Devas**

Spirit Voyage

Dave Stringer is among the most popular *kirtan* singers of our time and he's one of the few yogis who have been blessed with a sophisticated sense of musicality that is rarely challenged in the chanting genres of world music. *Divas & Devas* is another superb effort by one of Los Angeles' own *wallas*. Each track features Dave singing with a different *devi* (female) singer. Among those he chose to play with here are Donna De Lory, Allie Stringer, Sat Kartar, Wah!, Jonie Allen, Kim Waters, C.C. White, Dasi Karnamrita and Suzanne Sterling.

Each feminine contribution gives Dave an opportunity to share the spotlight with a distinctive devotional alchemy that is not only beautiful to listen to, but energetically charged with a gentle, affectionate and positive energy. Though sung in Sanskrit, the chants here are not performed in the call and response format. Nevertheless, like most of Dave's albums, the responses are implied as formless manifestations and heard from within the symmetry of the music and the experience of each vibration.

Most of the chants are inspired by poems by *bhakti* poet saints, put to melodies and arrangements that Stringer has produced. Then there are *kirtan* inspired by Stringer's respect and gratitude from his days in Ganeshpuri, India, as a Siddha Yoga devotee. The first piece on the album, "Bhaja Govindam," is a personal favorite and features some really sweet dulcimer tracks performed by Stringer himself. The chant sets a perfect tone for the flow of the rest of the album. Using less bass, or guitar and no piano, the instrumentation choices on this album are a little different from Dave's previous albums, but just as effective. What makes this record really special, however, is his reliance on other singers to carry the vibrations of each *mantra* home.

I love *Divas & Devas* and I'm excited for the musicians who play on it. The album is a

sophisticated, yet simple, collection of amazing melodies and performances and is definitely a must have for anyone's *kirtan* CD collection. *Divas & Devas* is a highly recommended release for a yogi of any path and can be used in almost any positive-minded environment.

spiritvoyage.com

—Michael R. Mollura