

John Protopapas

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Desired Position

Collegiate Level World Music (Ethnomusicology) Instructor

Education

Studied Sitar and Tabla in the traditional Indian style: Guru Shishya **1983-2004**
The Guru Shishya is where the student studies intensely under the tutelage of the instructor.

Professor Virendra Kumar Sen **Intense Study: 1983-1990, Intermittent Study: 1991-2004**
Sitar Student
Virendra Kumar Sen was highly respected as the head of the music department of DAV Government College Dehra Dun. He was my primary sitar instructor.

Dr. Gopal Shankar Misra **1995-1999**
Sitar Student
Gopal Shankar Misra was a World renowned sitarist and veena player and a professor at Benaris Hindi University. He was my secondary sitar instructor.

Prayag Sangit Samiti – Allahabad, India **1988-1989**
Senior Diploma, Sitar

Employment History

York College – York, PA **2001-Present**
World Music Professor
Course Description: My World music course examines diverse cultures of the World through the window of music. The course is a journey around the World, weaving a musical web through Africa, Spain, Greece, the Middle East, India, Japan, the Caribbean, Latin and Native American Cultures.

Course Objectives: The study of World music (ethnomusicology) combines elements of music, art, humanities, religion and sociology. By studying the many musical and artistic threads of global cultures, students can better understand the World in which they live. Quantitative reasoning is utilized through the study of notes and rhythmic patterns. Students are encouraged to think critically about music and art around the World.

Instruction Methods: The methods and teaching of this course are heavily influenced by my firsthand experiences with music and cultures from around the World. Course objectives are met through lectures, discussions, use of a primary textbook with supplementary reading and in-class demonstrations by the instructor and visiting musicians. Students will also listen to recordings, watch documentaries, attend performances and complete assignments and projects.

Yoga Home – York, PA **2008-Present**
Owner, Yoga Instructor

Hindu American Religious Institute – Harrisburg, PA **2008-Present**
Teach sitar and tabla

Children's Home – York, PA **2004-Present**
Yoga Therapist for at risk teen girls in the Girl's Home

Teaching Yoga for past 20 years at various locations

Recent Achievements

Elizabethtown College

- Lecture demonstration for Asian Religion Department class on Hinduism.
- Performance for Indian week celebration

Millersville College

- Sitar Performance at the Mahatma Gandhi photo exhibit

Franklin and Marshall College

- Performance in the International House during its inauguration
- Lecture demonstrations for Susan Hurly (Ethnomusicology) and David McMann (Asian Religions)

Harrisburg Community College (Harrisburg and Lancaster Campuses)

- World Music lecture demonstrations for Professor Larry Landis

Kids & Cultures of Lancaster

- Three presentations of Indian and African music. Students made thumb pianos with kits I put together

Kennedy Center

- Certificate of merit for performance and production of music for the Franklin and Marshall production of The Little Toy Cart

Musical Recordings

Off Chants – Sketches of India

1995

East/West fusion, Recorded at Peabody Recording Studios, Baltimore, MD

Instruments Played: Sitar, Tabla, Middle Eastern Percussion

Bija – Seeds of Prayer

2002

Contemporary Indian Music

Instruments Played: Sitar, santoor, esraj, tabla, pakhawaj, bells, frame drum, kanjira and percussion

John Protopapas - Ocean of Sound

2008

Traditional Classical Indian Music

Instruments Played: Solo sitar and tabla

Student Comments

“This course was excellent. I think it should be a core requirement for every student in the country – not just at this College. We learned so much about the good in other cultures. It was an invaluable experience. Fear breeds hate and we have a tendency to fear what we don’t understand. If anything in my entire college career facilitated the abolishment of fear of other cultures, it was this class. I understand my fellow man much better and have an appreciation for their ways of life through their music and customs. I say again – This course should be required of anyone who truly wants a complete education.”

“This class was amazing and always brightened my day. I began to think about things in a different way and pay attention to life. It helped me access what I believe and why, along with learning about different music styles from across the World. I enjoyed every minute of it.”

“Without a question John Protopapas is the best professor I have ever had. The reason you take a course like this in college is because you learn to abstractly perceive situations from different viewpoints. Creative thinking is always an important part of this course. Professor Protopapas has the natural ability to teach and he has changed my life in so many ways. I cannot say enough good things about him. He is truly York College’s jewel.”

Professional References / Comments

Dr. Frederick Schreiner

Director, Division of Music, York College, York, PA

“Mr. Protopapas is very well liked by his students. His introspective approach to his courses is appreciated by his students and faculty alike. His students acknowledge his vast understanding of ethnic music around the World and look forward to classes. He has a way of making his subject matter come alive for his students”

Dr. Jeffery D. Long

Associate Professor of Religion and Asian Studies

Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Elizabethtown College

E-mail: longjd@etown.edu

“John Protopapas is a treasure. His knowledge of India musical traditions, combined with his skill as a musician, make him an excellent speaker or performer in any class or program relating to Indian culture. My students were enthralled with his presentation and performance in my course on Hinduism. I recommend him highly”

Dr. Ann Morrison Spinney

Asst. Professor of Music (Ethnomusicology), Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA

Phone: 717-291-4346

“John is a dedicated musician and philosopher in the tradition of music he plays, and this shines through in his performances. His long experience living in the culture of which he speaks gives him a rich understanding. He is able to synthesize this into clear and articulate presentations. In addition he has the gift of being able to sense the particular interest level of his audience, even from very subtle clues. Not only did he pitch his talks quite marvelously to the students’ degree of knowledge and interests, he was wonderful interacting with them during the question times. On both visits, he gauged what points would fit into my course brilliantly. The students acclaimed his visit both verbally and in their evaluations.”