

## Shoshan Live! - Shye Ben-Tzur



**Shye Ben-Tzur** is an acclaimed Israeli composer, producer and performer based in North India for the past decade, playing Rajasthani rhythms with Western sounds. He is a Hebrew Qawwali singer.

After attending a concert in Israel by the Indian classical musicians Hari Prasad Chaurasia and Zakir Hussain, he became interested in Indian music, which brought him into contact with Qawwali. He went to Ajmer in India, Rajasthan's most important Sufi shrine, where he trained and collaborated with the qawwali musicians of Ajmer. Qawwali is a form of ecstatic Muslim devotional music.

In 2004, he performed at *Jahan-e-Khusrau*, the prestigious international Sufi music festival held in New Delhi. He also performed with his group at the *Jaipur Literature Festival 2009*, and has toured in Israel.

His debut album *Heeyam* ("Supreme Love") was recorded in India, Israel, and USA. It was released in 2003, and earned great praise. In *Heeyam*, Shye worked with traditional Sufi Qawwali singers, who have been learning his compositions and poetry, and sung them in Hebrew. From his personal life experiences Ben-Tzur has succeeded to bring his own ancient culture alive into a unique cross cultural work. Besides working with the Qawwali communities across India, in the past few years Shye has also been collaborating with different folk musicians from the Rajasthan desert.

*“Shye Ben-Tzur, an Israeli flautist, vocalist and composer, enraptured the crowd. This was a clear example of how music and art crosses political and religious boundaries, giving credence to the festival’s ambitions.”* (Songlines magazine review from Shye’s performance at the Jaipur Literature Festival 2009)

Shoshan is a natural continuation in Shye’s exhilarating career, a cross-cultural mix of passions, genres, languages and irresistible beats. He is the Hebrew Qawwali singer of today, spreading a message of love and understanding wherever he goes.

The Shoshan Live! by Shye Ben Tzur premiered at the EarthSync Festival 2009, Chennai to an ecstatic audience and excellent reviews by the media.

### Some Press Voices

- “Shye Ben-Tzur set the city on fire, a benchmark performance in the city” **(The Times of India)**
- “Left the enthusiastic audience spellbound with consummate ease” **(New Indian Express)**
- “An enthralling evening with a beautifully lit stage which was the perfect setting for a spellbinding musical experience. Shye electrified the audience and left them asking for more” **(Deccan Chronicle)**
- “The audience was lost in the magic Shye produced on stage. The music cast a spell on the audience, having a healing effect on the listeners. A rare experience” **(The Hindu – Metro Plus)**
- “A Spiritual mix of Hebrew poetry set to Sufi melodies, combined with full-throated soulful Rajasthani music. A cross-cultural mix of emotions, realities, styles, languages and irresistible grooves” **(The Hindu – Business Line)**



- “Rich flavours of international and Indian cultures, languages and music, Shoshan is a treat for music lovers across borders, cultures and faiths” **(The New Indian Express, Hyderabad)**
- “Infectious, a melting pot of Sufi poetry, Rajasthani rhythms and Western sounds” **(Mid Day, Mumbai)**

The album *Shoshan – Shye Ben Tzur* was released in December 2009 by EarthSync

## Shye Ben-Tzur & Group Artists (14)



### **Shye Ben-Tzur**

*(Rajasthan / Israel)*

Composer, Vocals & Flute

Shye has been living and making music in Rajasthan for over a decade brings together the ancient Qawwali music traditions with his own rich heritage.

### **Munshi Khan**

*(Rajasthan)*

Vocals & Harmonium

A distinguished performer from Jaipur, Rajasthan.



### **Fernando Perez**

*(Spain)*

Flamenco & Electric Guitar

Internationally acclaimed guitarist Fernando Perez has played all over the world. A unique talent in flamenco and oriental guitar, as well as Gypsy Jazz, Greek, Indian and Chinese music, his music captivates every audience.

### **Eyal Mazig**

*(Israel)*

Eyal has been playing bass guitar for over 15 years, plays the trumpet and conducts orchestras. Eyal also produces pop and rock music, and has performed as pianist at the Eurovision Song Contest.



### **Ran Levari**

*(Israel)*

Drums

Ran studied in New York with master teachers Jim Chapin and Dom Famularo, and has played in Israel and the USA with various world and electronic music groups.



**Kutla Khan**  
(Rajasthan)

Rajasthani Multi Instrumentalist  
Kutla will be playing the dholak.



**Chuga Khan**  
(Rajasthan)

Chugge plays khartals (wooden castenets), bhapang (single stringed talking drum), morsing (mouth harp) and dhol (drum).

**Rais Khan**  
(Rajasthan)

Rais plays khartals (wooden castenets), bhapang (single stringed talking drum), morsing (mouth harp) and dhol (drum).



**Rajasthani Brass Band (3)** (Rajasthan)

Aziz Khan - Brass Clarinet  
Chand Bihani Khan - Brass Trumpet  
Mohammed Rafik - Tuba Trumpet

**Quawwali Singers (2)**  
(Rajasthan)

Zaki Nizami  
Mohamad Zakir Elias Aghan





## Resources

Shoshan Live Trailer	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAS5czOe5lQ">www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAS5czOe5lQ</a>
MySpace	<a href="http://www.myspace.com/heeyam">www.myspace.com/heeyam</a>
Wikipedia	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shye_Ben_Tzur">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shye_Ben_Tzur</a>
Sonicbids	<a href="http://www.sonicbids.com/ShyeBenTzur">www.sonicbids.com/ShyeBenTzur</a>
EarthSync	<a href="http://www.earthsync.com">www.earthsync.com</a>

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