

Taos Mountain Meditations

Sitar
Cello

Paul Livingstone, sitar
Pete Jacobson, cello

Lucile Grieder, executive producer

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1	Dance of the Triangle	3:44
2	The Shape of Imagination	3:11
3	Sweater Patterns	3:55
4	Boxes of Crayons	3:13
5	Snow Flurries in June	3:56
6	Ripples on a Pond	3:04
7	Why Trees make Music	3:29
8	Pot Creek	6:30
9	Sunrise	3:38
10	Nacimiento	4:46
11	Ascent	4:21
12	Astral Projection	3:01
13	Sunhawk	3:22
14	The Smell of Rocky Mountain Rain	0:21
15	Cottonwood Seeds Blowing in the Wind	3:09
16	Blue Lake	3:04
17	Evening Light Dancing	4:35
18	Corn Pollen	2:38
19	Mantra	2:05
20	Rio Pueblo	1:48
21	Rio Lucero	2:59
22	Red Willow	8:56

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Producer's Notes

Our friend **Lucile Grieder** inspired this recording, and agreed to serve as our executive producer. This is Yarlung's third recording in the Imhof Studio in Taos, which was built just south of the Taos Pueblo and looks north to Taos Mountain. Sitar player **Paul Livingstone** and cellist **Pete Jacobson** visited Taos to make their debut Yarlung recording titled *Sangam* in 2021.





Pete Jacobson and Paul Livingstone

You may have heard Paul before on his several classical Hindustani or “ragajazz” crossover recordings with Paul’s Arohi Ensemble, Soul Force and Raga Meditations on various platforms. Paul just returned to the United States from six months studying and performing in India, concluding with a tour in France and Spain on the way home. Pete is a cello rock star, whom you may know from his tours and recordings as Hellacello, and with diverse musicians such as Rhye, Dr. Dre, Kamasi Washington and the West Coast Get Down, The Talking Strings, Quartetto Fantastico and Aux Cerna. You may also know him from film and television, including in The Walking Dead, Motherland and The Twilight Zone. Paul and Pete have been performing together as Sangam and as members of other ensembles together for over fifteen years. Their families live close by. Paul and Pete have performed on GRAMMY® winning records by Ricky Kej, Ozomatli and Quetzal.



So when Pete and Paul travelled to Taos for *Sangam*, Lucile and I took advantage of the opportunity to create a second project for the duo inspired by the presence of Taos Mountain and the many theistic and non-theistic spiritual traditions that find a welcome home on or surrounding this mountain. Like Mount Kailas in Tibet, Olympus in northern Greece, Popocatepel overlooking the Valley of Mexico, Nebo in Jordan, or Agung in Bali, Taos Mountain has drawn pilgrims and spiritual seekers for millennia. Paul and Pete created 22 musical works (22 meditations) in honor of Taos Mountain, that we hope tickle the fancies of New Age music buffs and Indian classical aficionados alike. All took inspiration from this magnificent mountain, generously photographed for us by my friend Geraint Smith. geraintsmith.com





Taos evokes magic, mystery, art, multiculturalism and majesty. Home to the Tiwa-speaking Red Willow people of Taos Pueblo for more than a thousand years, home to Spanish settlers from 1600 and “Anglos” (which means everyone not Native American or Spanish) since shortly after the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, Taos offers not only breathtaking scenery, refreshing air and light and the magnificent smells of adobe earth, pinion and sagebrush, but also the social problems and triumphant collaborations that come from three distinct cultures living together in what is still in many ways the Wild West. Taos inspired some of the 20th Century’s most creative artists and writers but also struggles with aching poverty in all three communities.

For Anglos who move to Taos, locals say that Taos Mountain either spits them out or integrates them without prejudice. I leave the truth of this to others and to The Mountain to decide. This famous Mountain lies on the Taos Pueblo reservation, north of the historic Taos Pueblo buildings and north of the early Hispanic fortified village known originally as Don Fernando de Taos. Fernando Chacón founded this Spanish village in 1795, eight or nine hundred years after the Tiwa people built their iconic homes at the Pueblo.



The native Red Willow people, the Tiwa Indians in Taos, practice a hybrid religion today, incorporating the conflicting tenants of their native religion with Roman Catholicism superimposed by the Spanish padres over hundreds of years. If one asks a devout Tiwa friend about the conflicts, he or she may shrug and may comment that one can follow both truths. This ability for people in Taos to incorporate disparate theologies and world views will help us understand the multiple spiritual inspirations for the music on this recording.



Paul Livingstone on sitar and Pete Jacobson on cello take inspiration from the Hindustani musical tradition and from Paul's teacher and mentor Ravi Shankar who collaborated so eloquently with Yehudi Menuhin on violin and helped to popularize Hindustani music in the West. Pete and Paul also draw inspiration from American jazz improvisation. "Sangam," in Hindi, means many things, including "confluence," or the blending of two people, ideas or traditions into something fresh and new. Paul and Pete chose "Sangam" to be the name of their duo. www.paulzlivingstone.com/sangam



Joseph Imhof painted in the studio where we recorded, a large and airy adobe space where his creativity bridged the gap between the most sophisticated lithography at the time and the Rio Grande pueblo traditions of the native tribes. A successful inventor in his own western tradition, Imhof was also inducted into two kiva clans, one at Cochiti pueblo and another in Taos. This extremely rare honor for a non-native meant much to Imhof, and helped imbue his work with a true “sangam” from two radically different traditions and world views. Paul and Pete felt Imhof’s inspiration when they made this recording.

We used SonoruS Holographic Imaging technology, Frank Sinatra’s famous AKG C24 microphone owned by my friend Ted Ancona, microphone preamplification by Elliot Midwood, and the Merging Technologies HAPI with Pyramix software recording DSD256 to capture this music in a rich two-channel and surround sound immersive environment. Hopefully you too will find yourself within the heart of this music when you listen, and we hope these meditations inspire peace within you.

—Bob Attiyeh, producer





Pete Jacobson, cello



Paul Livingstone, sitar



For more info about Paul & Pete
www.paulzlivingstone.com
www.peteplayscello.com

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Recording engineer & producer: Bob Attiyeh

Mastering engineers: Steve Hoffman, Arian Jansen & Bob Attiyeh

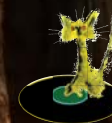
Taos Mountain Photography: Geraint Smith

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