

Yoga Chicago / November – December 2007

Reviewed by Debi Winston–Buzil

Dave Stringer: Diva and Devas

Dave Stringer is a fearless performer and tunesmith. Dave performed all new material from Divas and Devas at his October record release party at Moksha Yoga Center. He challenged us to take the ride with him, and we all explored some very uncharted waters. The 100-plus crowd at Moksha accepted the challenge, and the three-hour kirtan/performance reached some highly exalted moments. Kim Waters, from the duo Rasa, and Dave's 18-year-old niece, Allie Stringer, were the golden-voiced muses at this event. Their soaring harmonies and different timbres served the evening well.

Divas and Devas represents a new direction that Dave has taken. His voice is the common thread through the release as he performs duets with some of the most divine women in the spiritual music scene. These voices include some upcoming movers and shakers-- Suzanne Sterling, Dasi Karnamrita and C.C. White. Also included are duets with Sat Kartar, Wah!, Donna De Lory and Kim Waters.

Streamlined and using the song-form of bhajan, Divas and Devas is not a kirtan record. Unlike kirtan's repetitive form, bhajans are songs in the lyrical languages of Sanskrit, Marathi and Hindi, expressing emotions of love for the Divine. Produced by Dave and Hans Christian, this recording feels more stripped down and Eastern than Dave's previous work. The emotionality, which can be seen as loving devotion, or bhakti, shines through clearly in this formulation. Elegant and engaging, Dave Stringer and his divas have created a timeless piece of art.