

WORLD MUSIC

INDIA

WD-IN1 Germany 1992

AJANTA

WD – Traditional – Instrumental

Comp: S. YASOTHA

Perf: **THE YASOTHA SOMASUNDRAM ENSEMBLE**

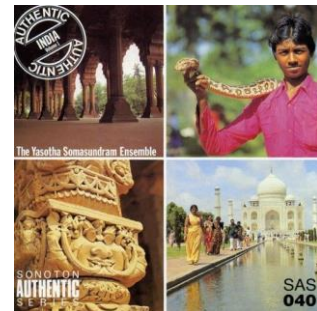
Prod. Co: Sonoton Music GmbH & Company; Munich

Rec. Co: Lions Studio; Singapore

Time: 2:36

CD: AUTHENTIC INDIA

Sonoton SAS 040 (Tk 19)



Notes: Presumably composed in the traditional style of Indian music, this is primarily a percussion piece. The description provided by Sonoton: “Journeys through caves with relics of Ancient India. Murals, Frescoes, Sculptures, India, Historical Drama, Authentic Ethnic Music.” Sonoton Music in Munich is a record company specializing in library music for film and television (see also Film Library Music section). The audio sample had strummed sitar notes, pings, gong notes, rapid tabla beats, tock-tock sounds, etc. The piece was described in German (Kliebhan 1998) – “*Illustration für Höhlen mit Funden aus der indischen Antike: Wandmalerei, Fresken, Skulpturen.*” [Music illustration of caves with discoveries of Indian antiquities such as wall paintings, frescos, and sculptures.]

The Ajanta Caves are located in a horse-shaped ravine over 3 kms from the village of Ajantha in the Aurangābād district of Maharashtra State in western India. They are a series of over 30 man-made Buddhist temple caves dating from the 2nd century BC. The pano photo is by Marc Shandro.

Ref: Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra, [Sacred Destinations India](#)

Anon., Ajanta Caves, India, [Wikipedia](#)

Authentic India by The Yasotha Somasundram Ensemble, [itunes](#)

Kliebhan, Bernd 1998, Speläo Musik, (Unpublished list of recorded cave music), p. 13

Sonoton – Beatbox Music Downloads, p. 10, (2:36) [Beatbox](#) (◀COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE)

WD-IN2 United States 1996

CAVES OF ELLORA (Part 1) CAVES OF ELLORA (Part 2)

World – New age – Instrumental

Comp: Chuck JONKEY

Rts: Jonkey Music (ASCAP)

Perf: Chuck **JONKEY** (guitar/sitar, guitar, keyboards, tablas, & percussion)

Prod: Howard Gale & Chuck Jonkey

Prod Co: Jonkey Enterprises Production; Glendale, CA

Time: 3:44 & 6:03 (5:50)

CD: CHARADA: AN ODYSSEY OF INDIA

Jonkey Enterprises JM 110 CD (Tks 5 & 6)



Notes: Inspired by a visit to the Ellora Caves located 30 km from Aurangabad, in the state of Maharashtra, India. At different periods between the 6th and 10th centuries over 34 caves were carved out of the Charanandri Hills here: 12 are Buddhist caves, 17 are Hindu, and 5 are Jain cave temples (see photo of Jain caves). Sculptures and carvings are found in some of the caves. (See also [RAC#](#))

Although this album includes one track (4) "Prayer" (1:02) which is sacred Sanskrit chants recorded in the caves of Ellora, everything else here was composed by Chuck Jonkey in the tradition of Indian music. The first "Caves of Ellora" piece consists of prolonged sitar passages. While the second piece starts with tabla rhythms and sitar then blends into repeated keyboard themes that conclude with intervals of insistent guitar. The sitar returns and the piece ends with the insistent guitar.

Ref: Chuck Jonkey, Biography, Sonic Safari Music, [sonicsafarimusic](#)

Chuck Jonkey, Charada, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLES)

Ellora Caves, India, [Sacred Destinations](#)

Jonkey, Chuck n.d., *Sonic Safari Music* (catalog), p.8
Ellora Caves, [Wikipedia](#)



WD-IN3 United States 1991

THE DANCING SORCERER

WD – Percussion – Instrumental

Comp: Zakir HUSSAIN & Airtó MOREIRA

Rts: 360° Publishing (ASCAP)

Perf: Zakir **HUSSAIN** (tabla & madal)

Airtó **MOREIRA** (berimbau)

Prod: Mickey Hart

Prod. Co: 360° Productions

Rec. Co: Studio X; Sonoma County, CA

Liner Notes: Mickey Hart

Time: 2:57

CD: PLANET DRUM

Rykodisc RCD 10206 (Tk 8)

Notes: The liner notes explain – "*The Dancing Sorcerer* features Airtó on berimbau and Zakir on tabla and madal. The berimbau (musical bow) is one of the oldest instruments known to man. In fact, it may be the image of a musical bow in the caves at Les Trois Frères (15,000 B.C.) that provided the first documentation of percussion's connection to the sacred. This picture resembles a man wearing the skin of an animal and playing some kind of instrument, possibly a sounding bow or a concussion stick." Actually the "little sorcerer" engraving at the Grotte des Trois-Frères dates to the Upper Paleolithic (13,000 B.C.) and he is playing a nasal flute. (Dauvois 1994)



Zakir HUSSAIN - Photo Emam



The single low note of the one stringed bow instrument is varied by striking and plucking it in different rapid rhythms. But it is Indian percussion instruments, the tabla and the madal, that create the dominant atmosphere here, so it was decided to include this piece under India.

This album, which brings together great drummers from around the world, won the 1991 Grammy Award for best world music recording. There is another cave-inspired piece on this album from Nigeria entitled, "Temple Caves." (See [WD-NG1](#))

In the 1960s Mickey Hart (the producer here) was best known for his work as drummer with the Grateful Dead. Around that time he also met and recorded Indian musicians in San Francisco. (Hardin 2003)

Mickey Hart composed or recorded two other cave-inspired pieces and on all three pieces he worked with Airto Moreira (see under Film Music – *Apocalypse Now* – Cave (1980) & under Rock Music – *Subterranean Caves of Kronos* (1983).

Ref: Airto Moreira (Musician), [Wikipedia](#)

Dauvois, Michel 1994, Les témoins sonores paléolithiques, in Homo-Lechner, C. & Bélis, A., *La pluridisciplinarité en Archéologie musicale, IVe rencontres internationale d'archéologie musicale de l'ICTM, St. Germain-en-Laye, Oct. 1990*, Paris

Hardin, James 2003, Mickey Hart in Search of the World's Music, *Folklife Center News*, v. XXV, n. 2, Spring 2003, p. 14-15

Hart, Mickey 1991, *Planet Drum*, Harper, San Francisco

Planet Drum (Album), [Wikipedia](#)

Planet Drum, Mickey Hart, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Zakir Hussain (Musician), [Wikipedia](#)

WD-IN4 United Kingdom 1979

PAINTINGS IN A CAVE

WD – Experimental – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: SONS OF ARKA

Rts: Rocksteady Music

Perf: **SONS OF ARKA**

Michael Wadada (percussions)

Kadir Durvesh

Chris Joyce (drums)

(with vocal sounds)

Prod: Michael Mafia

Prod. Co: Ego Productions

Time: 1:25

1. **LP:** REVENGE OF THE MOZABITES

Rock Steady MICKL 01

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 4)

2. Reissue on Compilation **LP:** ARQAOLGY (1992)

Arka Sound ARKA 2105 CD (Tk 12)

3. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** ARQAOLGY (1992)

Arka Sound 2105 CD (Tk 12)

4. Reissue on **CD:** REVENGE OF THE MOZABITES (2001)

Arka Sound ARKA CD 33116

Notes: This group of various musicians performs a great variety of world music influenced by Indian, Scottish, flamenco, and reggae – all represented on this album.

This particular piece has marked Eastern influences, especially Indian music.

Ref: Smith, Pete; Blackman, Karen; Davis, Sylvia; Bellerose, Jennifer; & Kent, Jimmy (Editors) 1992, *The Official Music Master Tracks Catalogue*, 4th Edition, Waterlow Information Services Ltd., London, p. 933

Sons of Arka, Bio & Discography, [Wikipedia](#)

Sons of Arka, *Revenge of the Mozabites*, [Discogs](#)



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