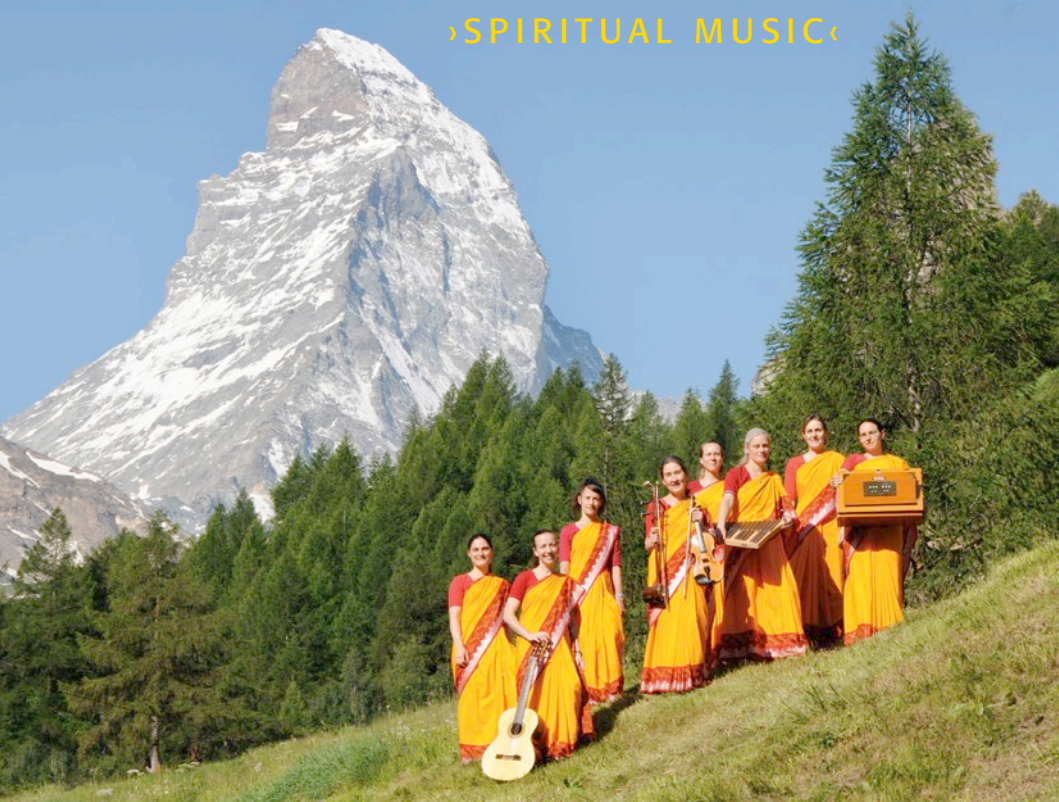


THE MUSIC ENSEMBLE

# *Mountain Silence*

› SPIRITUAL MUSIC ›





THE MUSIC ENSEMBLE  
*Mountain Silence*

THE ENSEMBLE PLAYS AND ARRANGES  
COMPOSITIONS AND SONGS OF

*Sri Chinmoy*

"SPIRITUAL MUSIC, BORN FROM  
THE SILENCE OF PRAYER AND MEDITATION,  
THAT TOUCHES THE HEART AND SOUL  
OF THE LISTENER."

## **The music ensemble**

Mountain Silence is an ensemble of female musicians from Switzerland, Germany and Austria under the leadership of Guthita Corda from Zurich/Wintherthur.

Founded in 1988 Mountain Silence dedicates itself to the spiritual songs of the Bengal composer and peace philosopher Sri Chinmoy (1931–2007). The pure and uplifting melodies of these songs remind of Gregorian chants, characterized by deep inwardness and joyfully ascending dynamics. They are musical prayers and meditations that allow the listener to dive deep into the depths, widths, the peace and beauty of his or her own heart and soul. The clear female voices of the group are accompanied by violin, Chinese erhu, cello, harmonium, xylophone and guitar.

The Mountain Silence ensemble had the rare privilege to offer its music as part of the divine service and as concerts in some of the most beautiful and well known churches and monasteries of Europe (see overview on the right side). Furthermore the group played in many other churches and concert halls in all Europe – in Switzerland, in Austria, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria,





**Monastery Church Einsiedeln** | Ceremony/concert

**Monastery Church Disentis** | Ceremony/concert

**Benedictine Monastery Uznach** | Ceremony/concert

**St. Stephen's Cathedral Budapest** | Ceremony

**Matthias Church Budapest** | Ceremony/concert

**Florence Cathedral** | Ceremony

**German Vatican Church** | Ceremony

**Cathedral of Assisi** | Ceremony/concert

**Montserrat Monastery** | Ceremony

**Votive Church Vienna** | Ceremony and concert

**Capuchin Monastery Salzburg** | Ceremony

**Cathedral of Turin** | Ceremony (1500 listeners)



Pope John Paul II blesses the leader of the group, Gunthita Corda (15.8.1991)

Rumania, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Norway, Sweden, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, in former Yugoslavia, in Macedonia as well as in Island, Russia, Mongolia, South Africa, the USA and Canada.

*"For the inspired music ensemble no distance is too great to offer to the world the message of peace."*

During the last 27 years Mountain Silence offered over 700 concerts world-wide, 108 alone in 1993 in 13 different countries and before about 20,000 listeners – e.g. in Athens, Bucharest, Prague, Bratislava, Zagreb, Belgrade, Skopje, Rome, Turin, Madrid, Barcelona, Montpellier, Paris, Moscow, Heidelberg, Vienna and Zürich.

Some highlights were the two performances for Pope John Paul II. in the Vatican in Rome (see photo on the left), concert and mass accompaniment in the monastery church of Assisi as well as a performance for Mother Teresa in Rome. In January 1989 Mountain Silence was invited to a private mass of Pope John Paul II. Following the young musicians were allowed to sing a song for him, that Sri Chinmoy had dedicated to the Holy Father: "Holy Father is blessing the world...", as well as quotes of the pope set to music by Sri Chinmoy: *"Lord give us the power of hope, the fire of love, the light of faith."*

## **Mountain Silence on their music**

"We are very grateful to be able to share this music of the 'yearning of the heart' with our brothers and sisters around the globe and to experience together that we can be one big world family, that we are all the children of one highest God and that we inspire each other, to allow the love, joy and peace of our creator to grow on this earth. There is no outer separation (such as religions, confessions, nationalities or cultures), that cannot be overcome by the universal language of music in the heart of the Lord Supreme."

## **Response**

Nuns, monks, priests, pastors and theology students in monasteries and churches were regularly deeply moved by the music as other listeners. Often Mountain Silence was asked after a concert to also accompany the next mass.

*"Music that is coming from Paradise. In the last 25 year that I am here, we never had such silence during and after a mass"* – a priest of the monastery church of Assisi (Italy) in 1993.





*"There is still hope. Mountain Silence with their heavenly music is an example. They travel from place to place to spread peace with their singing." – a priest of the catholic church, Villach (Austria) 1993.*

*"Music, that elevates the heart to God." – pastor Ernst Wageneder, Abbey Church of Saint Michael, Mondsee (Austria, picture above) 2014*

In the most beautiful church of San Lorenzo in Florence Mountain Silence was filmed by the national TV (RAI 1). In Macedonia they were invited several times by TV and Radio stations for live performances and in 2014 the group was introduced by the Icelandic national TV at best airtime.

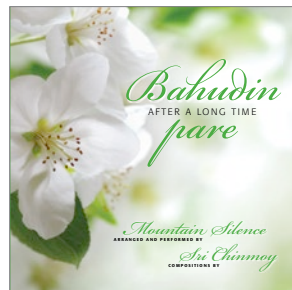
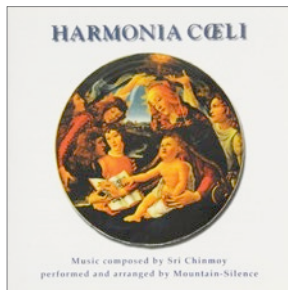
Sri Chinmoy: *"My Lord tells me: My child, never think that it is an impossible task to spread peace in the heart of mankind."*

## **Recorded CDs**

The concerts by Mountain Silence are principally free of charge, as it is the explicit wish of the composer that his songs are offered with the same selfless and unconditional love by which he received them from his inner fountain, that we all have in common. Mountain Silence finances its concerts through the sale of their own music CDs and through private donations. After the concerts the CDs are made available at the average price for CDs in the respective country. The group thanks you for each CD purchase.

## CD's by Mountain Silence

(song tests in English and Begali, partly with translations)



- ❁ Be Thou my ALL
- ❁ Heart-Blossoms
- ❁ A sea of Oneness-Peace
- ❁ Tomare rakhibo
- ❁ The Kingdom of Heaven
- ❁ Harmonia Cœli
- ❁ I fly in the heart-sky of my Dear Supreme
- ❁ Every time you love
- ❁ Bahudin Pare – After a long time

## **The composer Sri Chinmoy**

The composer of the songs, Sri Chinmoy (1931–2007), was born in India (today Bangladesh). Following an inner command he moved to New York in 1964, where he was leading ecumenical peace meditations for ambassadors and staff at the United Nations headquarters, invited by general secretary U Thant and starting in 1970. They continue until to date. Sri Chinmoy composed over 20,000 songs in his mother tongue Bengali and in English. His work of peace consists but not only of musical works, silent meditation and prayer, also art, poetry and sports became expressions of his inmost aspiration to serve and inspire God's big world family.

One of his most wide spread initiatives is an international torch relay run for peace, the "Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run" ([www.peacerun.org](http://www.peacerun.org)), that takes place every second year since 1987 and goes through over 100 countries in all continents. It has reached millions of people, amongst them thousands of children. A burning torch as a symbol of the longing for peace and fellowship is forwarded from hand to hand, heart to heart. Everyone is invited to make a



"I am very grateful for your visit. God bless you and all your contemplative activities."

– Pope John Paul II (Meeting at the Vatican, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1988)

step with the torch to add a wish of peace into the torch. Besides music to quotes of Jesus' from the new testament, quotes of the Holy Father or Mother Teresa, Sri Chinmoy has composed many songs in English or his mother tongue Bengali.



Here for some examples:

\* \* \*

*«Prayer is the Beauty of God in me  
Meditation is the Prosperity of God in me.»*

\* \* \*

*«When I pray, I see God looking from a very high height.  
When I meditate, I see God at my heart-door.»*

\* \* \*

*«Each time I pray I see inside my heart  
a peace tree growing.  
Each time I pray I see inside my heart  
a peace-flower blossoming.»*

– SRI CHINMOY

*"Mine is a God-dream that embodies nothing but the peace of mountain-silence."* **SRI CHINMOY**

\* \* \*

*"All that you do for the world is done for the glory of God and for the benefit of mankind! Your works of love are works of prayer and your works of prayer are works of God."*

**MOTHER TERESA IN A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH SRI CHINMOY, 27.8.1997**

\* \* \*

*"You are a part of the spiritual force of love that emanates from God and that will transform the evil of the world into its counterpart. Thank you, for moving on and moving on. Perhaps the world exists only because of people like you, who help to keep it in being."*

**DESMOND TUTU AT A MEETING WITH SRI CHINMOY IN NEW YORK, 16.3.2004**

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