

## SOUL CONTACT - MICHAEL H. COHEN



**Michael H. Cohen, internationally renowned Kirtan artist has released a new CD entitled *Soul Contact*.** Like his debut album, *Om Dattatreya: Journey to the West* (2009), Cohen's second CD *Soul Contact* (2012) was created with Grammy Award winning producer Jeff Ciampa and has received critical acclaim by prominent U.S. yoga practitioners and media.

*Soul Contact* was created during a two-year Kirtan tour across North America and was also influenced by travels to the Southern Indian holy sites of Penukonda, Shirdi and Tirupati. According to Cohen, "The music creates a channel to the energy of these sacred power spots of India, allowing listeners to access the Love, Freedom and Aliveness of Dattatreya Kirtan. *Soul Contact* is pure devotional groove integrating unforgettable and unique, mysterious, techno- enhanced mantras with

Eastern spirituality." According to Yoga Chicago Magazine, "Soul Contact moves from ancient incantation, straight to the energy of the modern world." *Soul Contact* is an intoxicating musically inspired journey to the soul and beyond.

### TRACKS

1. Sai Isha Sharanam (Dance of Ganesh)
2. Uma Parvati
3. Shirdi Sai
4. Shakti Gayatri
5. Om Sai Shree Sai
6. Jaya Radhe
7. Om Narayana
8. Om Sai Guru Dev
9. Twameva Mata/Lokha Samasta

*All music composed by Michael H. Cohen © 2006-12 Shiva Datta Music, LLC (BMI).*

### ABOUT MICHAEL H. COHEN

Michael H. Cohen is an internationally renowned Kirtan artist, teacher, leader and coach who guides Kirtan participants into unparalleled heights of energy, joy and aliveness through his high-powered Kirtan events. His music blends Eastern mantra and Western grooves in an intoxicating manner that Yoga Chicago Magazine described as "inspiring, addictive and highly-chantable". Mike offers Kirtan events and workshops as well as unique and innovative Kirtan Leader training programs across North America. **Full bio below.**

### PHOTOGRAPHS / INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

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## SOUL CONTACT - MICHAEL H. COHEN

### PRODUCTION

Recorded, mixed and produced by Jeff Ciampa at Studio Orange  
Mastered by Brian Lucey at Magic Garden Mastering  
Microphone support from Rob Griffin  
Art direction and graphic design by Stacey Hubert  
Photo of Shirda Sai Baba shot by Philip Lipetz in Shirdi, India  
Group photo by Kaity Fuja - Harmonium photo by Brandon Jones

### MUSICIANS

Michael H. Cohen – lead vocals, harmonium  
Joni Allen – featured vocals (6, 8), choir vocals (1, 2, 3, 5)  
Jim Ed Cobbs – percussion (1, 5)  
Jim Feist – tablas (2, 4). On web at [www.classicaltabla.com](http://www.classicaltabla.com)  
Kris Keith – flutes (1, 3, 4), soprano saxophone (1, 7)  
Kevin Oliver – guitar (1, 3, 7)  
Allie Stringer – featured vocals (2, 3, 4, 7, 9), choir vocals (1, 5, 6)  
Jeff Ciampa – all other instruments and programming



### ABOUT SOUL CONTACT

Crafted during a two-year Kirtan tour across North America, this music was profoundly influenced by Michael H. Cohen's travels to Southern Indian holy sites in Penukonda, Shirdi and Tirupati. The music creates a channel to the energy of these sacred power spots, allowing one to access the Love, Freedom and Aliveness of Dattatreya Kirtan. Produced by Grammy Award winner Jeff Ciampa and featuring dynamic vocalists Joni Allen and Allie Stringer, Soul Contact integrates ancient Eastern spirituality with funky Western musical grooves. Each track is an invitation to sing, dance, clap and play with Divine Energy within a contemporary Western context. Soul Contact is an intoxicating journey to the soul and beyond.

### ONLINE

For tour and teaching schedule, video, press, store and FREE music visit Michael H. Cohen online.

**On the web:** [www.MikeCohenKirtan.com](http://www.MikeCohenKirtan.com)

**Watch:** [www.youtube.com/user/MikeCohenKirtan](http://www.youtube.com/user/MikeCohenKirtan)

**Connect:** [www.facebook.com/MikeCohenKirtan](http://www.facebook.com/MikeCohenKirtan)

**Listen:** [www.soundcloud.com/MikeCohen](http://www.soundcloud.com/MikeCohen)

**Contact:** [mike@mikecohenkirtan.com](mailto:mike@mikecohenkirtan.com)

## **MICHAEL H. COHEN FULL BIO**

Michael H. Cohen is an internationally renowned Kirtan artist, teacher, healer and leader who guides Kirtan participants into unparalleled heights of joy, energy and awareness through his unforgettable and intoxicating style of Kirtan music. Referred to as "Dattatreya Kirtan" Cohen's music blends Eastern mantra and Western grooves in creative compositions that Yoga Chicago Magazine has described as "inspiring, addictive and highly-chantable". Michael Cohen's recordings - *Om Dattatreya* (2009) and *Soul Contact* (2012) - were produced by Grammy Award winner Jeff Ciampa and have both received critical acclaim.

Leaning on his unique background in jazz, embodied leadership, energetics and the Dattatreya spiritual lineage of the Indian Saint Shirdi Sai Baba, Michael invites Kirtan participants through their hearts and into the Heart of the Divine. Leading a high energy Kirtan ensemble, Cohen leads groups into powerful and sublime spiritual experiences of Divine Connection (Bhakti), Energy (Shakti) and Creativity (Brahma Consciousness). Cohen has been working for years under the guidance of Dr. Philip Lipetz, one of Swami Kaleshwar's senior Western students and author of over a dozen books on Kaleshwar's work, to develop this highly innovative and spiritually grounded Dattatreya Approach to Kirtan.

Cohen's method integrates leadership training, community building and pragmatic musical training with previously undisclosed Dattatreya spiritual and energetic wisdom, bringing Kirtan to a whole new experiential level.

Michael H. Cohen has traveled around the globe leading and teaching Kirtan. As a teacher of Kirtan, his methods have revolutionized how Kirtan can help others grow in skill and depth as individuals, and to become Kirtan leaders, as well as overall leaders in daily life.

When not on tour, Cohen guides current and aspiring Kirtan students in workshops that develop increased competence and confidence in leading others into deep energetic states through the spiritual musical practice of sacred chanting. Since 2010, Cohen has worked with dozens of students in one-on-one, small group and workshop/training settings in the domains of musicianship, leadership, spirituality, energetics, chant writing and community building. His approach provides aspiring and current Kirtan leaders with the confidence, competence and depth to build and serve local, regional and national communities. His students have gone on to create thriving Kirtan communities in the United States including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Colorado, Ohio, Michigan, and across Ontario, Canada.

## **SOUL CONTACT MUSIC REVIEWS**

"There are nine chants on this release, and they're each unforgettable and unique, mysterious, techno- enhanced mantras from the heart of Dattatreya Kirtan. Soul Contact rises to the challenge of presenting the essence of the heart in this digital modern age we live in."  
-- Debi Buzil, Yoga Chicago Magazine --

"While listening to *Soul Contact* I can feel my mind, my emotions, the subtle dancing of my body, all being pulled into this groove. Is it the divine names pulling me in? Or the enticing production and soulful singing? Both. I highly recommend this album for kirtan-lovers and funky-music-lovers alike."  
-- Daniel Tucker, Kirtan Central --

"Soul Contact is pure devotional groove. This album will grip your hips and heart!"  
-- Blake Tedder, Full Lotus Kirtan Show --

"The call and response sparkles with joy and passion."  
-- Gary Goldberg, Host of "In The Spirit" and "Gary's Music Show"--  
--- WRPI 91.5 fm Troy, New York --

"Soul Contact is an absolute delight that should be part of any kirtan lover's collection."  
-- Joni Yung, Accidental Yogist --

"Funky, catchy rhythms, enchanting melodies, beautiful vocals and harmonies."  
-- JN, yoga teacher --

"This combination of World music, funky rhythms, and blissful chanting pushes the envelope in a tasteful intertwining of East meets West. Cohen's stellar musicianship and amazing back up musicians/vocalists make the improvisation and experimentation on this project very exciting."  
-- SP, singer/songwriter --

## **OM DATTATREYA MUSIC REVIEWS**

"*Om Dattatreya* is **chantable, interesting, and addictive.**"  
-- Yoga Chicago Magazine --

"**The recordings are flawless and energetic...** blends Eastern and Western musical accompaniment with a tendency to take the spirit to ecstatic levels of play."  
-- LA Yoga Magazine --

## **ABOUT THE MUSIC**

### **1. SAI ISHA SHARANAM (DANCE OF GANESH)**

Ganesha Sharanam, Sharanam Ganesh  
Gum Gum Ganapateyei Namaha  
Sai Isha Sharanam, Sharanam Ganesh  
Gum Gum Ganapateyei Namaha  
Namaha Namaha, Gum Gum Ganapateyei Namaha

*Surrender your burdens and obstacles in the refuge offered by Ganesh and the great Indian saint Shirdi Sai Baba.*

### **2. UMA PARVATI**

Durga, Durga Kali Ma  
Durga, Durga Jaya Ma  
Uma Parvati Ananda Mahi  
Om Sai Shree Sai Jay Jay Sai-ee

*Invoke the protection and bliss of the Divine Mother. Bathe in the Grace of Shirdi Sai Baba.*

### **3. SHIRDI SAI**

Shradda Saburi Avohum  
Om Sai Shree Sai Jay Jay Sai-ee  
Maha Vaytala Brahma Putra Avohum

*Shradda and Saburi... practice and patience. Vaytala (son of Brahma, the Creator) provides energy for creative responses to the illusions and challenges present of the manifest world.*

### **4. SHAKTI GAYATRI**

Om, Om, Om  
Aieem, Aieem, Aieem  
Kleem, Kleem, Kleem  
Saum, Saum, Saum  
Om Bhur Suu-vaha  
Tat Sa-vee-tur Var-ayn-yam  
Bhargo De-vaas-ya Di-mahi  
Dhi-yo-yo Na-ha Pracho-da-yat

*The ancient sage Vishwamitra created the goddess Gayatri so She could manifest what he needed in his life. This mantra connects you to the creative power of the Divine Mother, essential to changing the circumstances of your life.*

### **5. OM SAI SHREE SAI**

Om Namah Shivaya  
Om Sai Shree Sai Jay Jay Sai-ee  
Dattatreya

*Upon leaving his body, Shirdi Sai Baba released a potent mantra for receiving refuge, guidance and love through his energy – Om Sai Shree Sai Jay Jay Sai-ee.*

## **6. JAYA RADHE**

Jaya Radhe  
Govinda Gopala

*Victory (Jaya) to the Divine Feminine in the form of Radhe, consort of Lord Krishna. Her sorrow reflects the mood of our current world-era, the Kali Yuga (Age of Darkness).*

## **7. OM NARAYANA**

Om Narayana Vasudevaya  
Shree Devi, Laxmi  
Bhudevi, Balaji  
Shanti Prema  
Saraswati  
Om Aieem Kleem Shreem  
Maha Laxmi

*Lord Balaji abides in Tirumala Temple in Tirupati, India where he and his wives, Bhudevi and Laxmi, offer love, peace and prosperity to the multitudes of pilgrims who seek their blessings.*

## **8. OM SAI GURU DEV**

Om Sai Guru Dev Namoh Namah  
Sadguru Sai-ee Namoh Namah  
Mere Guru Dev Namah Namah

*Praise to the blessed guru who shines Divine Truth, Purpose, Love and Peace into our lives.*

## **9. TWAMEVA MATA/LOKHA SAMASTA**

Twameva Mata Cha Pita Twameva,  
Twameva Bandhu Cha Saka Twameva,  
Twameva Vidya Dravenam Twameva,  
Twameva Sarvam Mama Deva Deva.

*You are mother, father, brother and friend.  
You are all wealth and wisdom.  
You are my all in all, lord of lords supreme.*

Lokha Samasta Sukinoh Bhuvantu  
Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti

*May all beings everywhere be happy and free. Peace, peace, peace.*

*These lullabies seal the energy of our Kirtan practice in our hearts. May we bring this Love, Freedom and Healing Energy into our lives to serve our self and others.*

## **ABOUT KIRTAN**

Yoga in the West has become a billion dollar industry and Kirtan, a form of yoga (sacred chanting) has taken the yoga world by storm. Kirtan is a group participatory experience of sacred call and response chanting with calming, heart opening properties allowing people to build a deeper connection to themselves, others and the Divine.

Mike Cohen Kirtan blends East and West influences to integrate individual and group polarities through music in the form of sacred call and response chanting. Eastern spirituality is represented by Sanskrit mantras that calm the mind, open the heart and allow one to connect with Divine energy. Western musical sensibilities are represented by American/Western musical influences such as jazz, funk, soul, rhythm and blues, and rock.

Kirtan is collective spirituality – bringing voices of the group and intentions together to open the heart (Bhakti), cultivate Shakti (Divine Energy) and invite Brahma Consciousness (Divine Creativity), allowing each participant to bring more love, freedom and healing into their life. Kirtan is fun and easy, and no prior experience is necessary. At Mike Cohen Kirtan participants are invited to sing, clap, meditate and dance together to create a deep connection to the secret places of the soul.

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