

## | Diving into Devotion



**Manish Vyas**

Komponist und Musiker

Having grown up in India, surrounded by the sounds of temple bells, music, chanting and *kirtans* right out of the personal home, one sometimes misses that atmosphere when living in the West.

Hence, on the occasion of *Janmashtami* 2018, it was truly a pleasure to perform *kirtan* with my Band at the Krishna-Tempel in Zurich. It almost felt like being in India, also, because among the audience there were many people from India and Sri Lanka, dressed in colorful clothes, present at the temple to express their devotion to Krishna, the Lord with the flute. It was amazing how people from these diverse backgrounds responded to the *kirtan*.

Many people who approached me after the concert shared one special experience with me: They especially enjoyed the fact that after a long time, there was a *kirtan* at the temple in its authentic form, with the flavor of *bhakti* – as if it were in India. For me it was just a natural process because

that is how we grew up, that is what we learned, that is how we spent many afternoons and evenings on the floors of our living rooms, just singing devotional songs with family, friends, neighbors, kids ... Sometimes with no space for one single more person in the room! So, I guess that day the audience felt exactly this energy.

I truly enjoyed the temple and everyone's participation. They sang along, danced along, dived into *bhakti*. Also, I personally have always had a very close connection to Lord Krishna and his qualities of simplicity and joyfulness; his 'being in the world but not of the world', and, of course, his eternal connection to music from India. This special feeling also inspired me to share some stories of Krishna which are always a guiding light on the path of truth. All in all – a very nourishing experience to dive into devotion.

Warm regards  
*Om Sai Ram*

