

# Justin Gray

Acoustic and Electric Bassist/Composer/Bandleader/Teacher

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Justin Gray is a bassist, composer, producer, recording engineer and educator based in Toronto, Canada. His main influences include jazz, Indian classical and world music. Justin co-leads the Toronto based Indo-Jazz ensemble *Monsoon*, and contemporary jazz ensemble *Gray Matter*. Justin is also currently on faculty at Humber College, where he leads the Indo-Jazz Collective.

In 2010, Justin invented and co-created (with luthier Les Godfrey) the *Bass Veena*, an instrument designed for Indian Classical and Indo-Jazz music. Justin is now emerging as the first arts to perform on this instrument worldwide. Justin has also been traveling to India since 2005 to study and perform Indian Classical music with his Guru Shantanu Bhattacharyya. He is learning vocally and instrumentally from his Guru and is emerging as the first artist to perform traditional and original music on the Bass Veena.

Over the course of his career, Justin has had the opportunity to perform with a number of renowned jazz artists, including; Dave Liebman, Dave Douglas, Mike Stem, Ingrid Jensen, Seamus Blake, Dan Weiss, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Greg Osby, Tony Mallaby, John Riley, Pat Labarbera and David Mott. Additionally, he has worked with renowned Indian artists, including: Rashid Khan, Bikram Ghosh, Tejendra Mejendar, Subankar Banerjee, Shantanu Bhattacharyya, Chitraveena Ravikiran and Subhajyoti Guha.

As a producer and recording engineer, Justin has worked with a variety of jazz and world music artists, including: The Digs, Sundar Viswanathan, *Ventanas*, David Mott, Ed Hanley, Haniya Aslam, Waleed Abdulhamid, Ernie Tollar, Merriam Tollar and Brian O'Kane.

Justin has received a number of awards and distinctions, including: Finalist in 2015 for *Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Jazz Artist Award*, 2015 *Shanti Chakravorty Award in Indian Classical Music*, 2014 *Nirvan Bhavan Scholarship*, 2012 *Shastri Fellowship*, *Moe Koffman Music Award*, and 2004 *Garfield Weston Merrit Award Foundation National Scholarship*. Justin has also received grants from the Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and Shastri Foundation to pursue recordings, original jazz compositions, and formal studies in Indian classical music.

Justin proudly endorses: *Godfrey Guitars*, *Mark Bass Amplifiers*, *Radial Engineering*, *La Bella Strings*, *Lava Cables* and *Source Audio Pedals*.

