



"The Chakra Suite"

Composed & Arranged by Dave Pietro

In the late 1990's I traveled to Brazil and India on two separate music tours. While on these tours I fell in love with the cultures, the people and the music of these great countries and since then have continued to study each of them on an ever deepening level. I am drawn to their music's winding, lyrical melodies and complex, underlying rhythms. Over the years my playing and composing have come to blend these sounds together with the American jazz that has always been a huge part of my life. This kind synthesis is prevalent throughout our musical community today as the world we live in becomes increasingly interconnected.

In writing the music for this CMA commission, I wanted to incorporate these influences while respecting the storied traditions of both Brazilian and Indian music. For example, it would take a lifetime to properly study the ragas and taalās of East Indian music. So although we are using scales or rhythms which may sound somewhat like Indian ragas or taalās, it is important to point out that they are merely scales with the *flavors* of ragas and beat patterns with the *implications* of taalās.

My conceptual intention for "The Chakra Suite" was to use the Chakra System solely as an organizing principle. I pondered the energies represented in each chakra, both positive and negative, and then let the muse take me. It was never my intention to create literal translations of the chakras but to compose dynamic music open to multiple interpretations and improvisations. Following you will find a brief description of each chakra and the compositional processes that I used to musically represent them. I hope you enjoy the music!

Dave

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"With *The Chakra Suite*, saxophonist-composer-arranger Dave Pietro takes on the challenge of blending three profound musical influences in his life – East Indian, Brazilian and American jazz – into one organic whole. And the results of this rare confluence are stunning."
Bill Milkowski

For more information including videos on the making of "The Chakra Suite" please visit www.davepietro.com



Chakra - (sanskrit for "wheel" and is pronounced *chä-krä*)

Chakras are points of energy in our bodies that help our body, mind, and spirit function at peak levels, and transmit energy (Kundalini) between the physical, mental and emotional levels of our consciousness.



Chakra One - Muladhara (means "Foundation" and is pronounced *moo-lä-där-uh*)

Located at the base of the spine, this chakra represents the element earth. It relates to our survival instincts and to our sense of grounding and connection with our bodies and the physical plane.

Energies: Survival, Animal Nature, Self preservation, Physical needs, Fear, Insecurity



Chakra Two - Svadhisthana (means "Abode of the Self" and is pronounced *svä-deesh-tä-nä*)

Located in the abdomen, lower back, and sexual organs this chakra represents the element water and relates to desire and sexuality. It connects us to others through feeling, attraction, sensation, and movement.

Energies: Desire, Sensuality, Sexuality, Pleasure, Emotions, Attraction, Repulsion, Greed



Chakra Three - Manipura (means "City of Gems" and is pronounced *mä-nee-poo-rä*)

Located in the solar plexus, this chakra represents the element fire and relates to our personal power and ego. When healthy, this chakra brings us energy, effectiveness, spontaneity, and non-dominating power.

Energies: Power, Authority, Energy, Vitality, Inner Strength, Will, Anger, Self-Assertion,



Chakra Four - Anahata "Elegy for Everything" (means "Not Stricken" and is pronounced *ä-nä-hä-tä*)

Representing the element air, the heart chakra relates to unconditional love and is the integrator of opposites in the psyche: mind and body, male and female, persona and shadow, ego and unity. A healthy fourth chakra allows us to love deeply, feel compassion and have a deep sense of peace and centeredness.

Energies: Love, Compassion, Connection, Warmth, Forgiveness, Trust, Balance, Peace



Chakra Five - Vishuddha (means "Pure" and is pronounced *vee-shoo-dä*)

Located in the throat, this chakra relates to communication and creativity. Here we "find our voice", "speak our truths" and symbolically experience the world through vibration, such as the vibration of sound representing language.

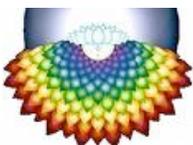
Energies: Communication, Creativity, Speech, Sound, Self-expression



Chakra Six - Ajna "The Third Eye" (means "Direction/Injunction" and is pronounced *äj-nyä*)

The brow chakra is related to the act of seeing, both physically and intuitively. When healthy it allows us to see clearly, in effect, letting us "see the big picture."

Energies: Intuition, Understanding, Clairvoyance, Sixth Sense, Imagination, Awareness



Chakra Seven - Sahasrara "The Lotus of a Thousand Petals" (pronounced *sä-häs-rä-rä*)

Located at the top of the head, the crown chakra relates to consciousness as pure awareness. It is our connection to the greater world beyond, to a timeless, space less place of all-knowing. When developed, this chakra brings us knowledge, wisdom, understanding, spiritual connection, and bliss.

Energies: Enlightenment, Transcendence, Spiritual Understanding, Love, Peace, Grace