

# A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE



In the development of the Indian programs, director Raymond Hawkins took a moment in Rishikesh to enjoy a break by the Ganga.

An old Norwegian hippy pulled up, ordered a chai and started playing a simple squeeze box and chanting. I think it was Hare Krishna but it doesn't matter.

The chai maker joined in the singing. Then a number of people passing by stopped and either watched or sung.

By the end, around ten people had joined in or stopped to watch. After 30 minutes or so everyone just simply went on their way,

The experience demonstrated to me how music and life in India are effortlessly connected. It also showed that creating music in India, or with Rajasthani gypsies, or doing a workshop with schoolchildren, or singing with the Goa Choir, or dancing with Indian people; can be a simple exercise. In many ways SINGING INDIA is a beautifully Indian concept because in India MUSIC IS LIFE!

For all my thinking and planning, that moment by the Ganga showed me how my dream of Indian singing tours can work - organically and without fuss!

This is what success will look like on SINGING INDIA. Memorable and poignant moments where human beings can bear witness to each other, leaving each enriched by the experience as we create a soundtrack to our own travel experience.