

THE TASHI LHUNPO MONKS

The Tashi Lhunpo Monastery of Tibet was founded by the First Dalai Lama in 1447. It is one of the four great Monasteries of the Gelugpa (or Yellow Hat) tradition, and is renowned for its scholarship in Mahayana Buddhist Philosophy and the Tantric tradition of Tibetan Buddhism.

The Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959 and the Cultural Revolution from 1966-80 wreaked destruction on the great Monastic institutions, including Tashi Lhunpo, which lost many of the precious scriptures, statues and images. Of the 6,000 monks in the Monastery, only 250 were able to follow the Dalai Lama into exile, and in 1972, under the patronage of the present Fourteenth Dalai Lama, Tashi Lhunpo Monastery was re-established in the Southern Indian state of Karnataka.

Dawn till Dusk is a new album by TLM for release in 2008 and features previously unrecorded chants and mantras from Monastery's rich heritage, passed down through the centuries via oral traditions from master to disciple.

The disc was recorded on location in Tashi Lhunpo Monastery's Great Prayer Hall in Bylakuppe, India and includes a unique prayer written by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The CD also contains rare recordings of The Tashi Lhunpo Monastery's Tantric Orchestra performing on ritual instruments which include human skull cap drums and thigh-bone trumpets.



Photo Credit: Gareth Blake

"A psychedelic whirl of chanting"

The Times

"A magical universe of reincarnation and release"

The Independent