

Kavita Shah Quintet

All Roads Lead to Home



BIOGRAPHY:

When Kavita Shah first visited her ancestral villages on the coast of Gujarat, in northwest India, they felt strangely familiar — like she had been there before. The teal blue houses, mangroves, and guava trees reminded Shah of her travels throughout Latin America, Brazil and West Africa, with their equally vibrant colors and cultures. This winding path embodied in the title of her forthcoming quintet album, **All Roads Lead to Home**, coming Winter 2027.

The music is brimming with complex rhythms and soulful songs that carry stories of the natural world and the hidden songlines connecting seemingly disparate cultures — from a sparrows in the mangroves of Gujarat to an Argentine novelist in exile in Paris; from a Brazilian sea goddess to the peacocks roaming freely on Shah’s ancestral farmland. Brought to life by a global cast of top New York musicians (pianist Leo Genovese, bassist François Moutin, guitarist Juancho Herrera, drummer Ferenc Nemeth, and guest saxophonists Miguel Zenón and Steve Wilson), *All Roads Lead to Home* marks a clear arrival of Shah’s lyrical and compositional voice — one that seamlessly blends global folk music into the language of modern jazz.

Shah is an award-winning vocalist, composer, researcher, polyglot, educator, and native New Yorker known for her “amazing dexterity for musical languages” (NPR). Her projects include **Visions** (2014), co-produced by Lionel Loueke; **Folk Songs of Naboréa** (2017), commissioned by Jason Moran for the Park Avenue Armory; **Interplay** (2018), nominated for France’s Victoires de la Musique for Jazz Album of the Year; and **Cape Verdean Blues** (2023), a “gorgeous” (The Guardian) tribute to legendary African singer Cesária Évora.

Shah was a featured vocalist on NEA Jazz Master Kenny Barron’s **Songbook** (2025) and Miho Hazama’s GRAMMY-nominated **Dancer in Nowhere** (2019). Performance highlights include New York’s Carnegie Hall and Central Park SummerStage, Chicago World Music Festival, Kennedy Center, and dozens of jazz festivals across the US, Europe, Africa, and Australia.

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