

Ravi and Anoushka Shankar, sitar

Friday, September 19, 8 pm, 2003
Zellerbach Hall

with

Tanmoy Bose and Arup Chattopadhyay, tabla

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

Ravi and Anoushka Shankar record for Angel/EMI.

ICM Artists, Ltd., New York City
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This performance has been made possible, in part, by the Friends of Cal Performances.

Cal Performances thanks the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
and the Zellerbach Family Foundation for their generous support.

Cal Performances receives additional funding from the National Endowment for the Arts,
a federal agency that supports the visual, literary, and performing arts to benefit all Americans,
and the California Arts Council, a state agency.

Ravi Shankar (sitar), the legendary virtuoso sitarist, composer, teacher, and writer, is renowned throughout the world for his pioneering work in bringing Indian music to the West. He has been a cultural influence in the West for more than three decades as India's most recognized and esteemed musical ambassador.

The youngest son in a Bengali family, he was born in 1920 in Varansi (Benares), the holiest of Indian cities. At the age of 10, he accompanied his elder brother with his company of dancers and musicians to Paris, where he attended school. He spent several years in the West absorbing different kinds of music, but returned to India in 1938 to begin his career. Shankar combined his concert performances with his work for All India Radio (1949–56), where he established the National Chamber Orchestra. As word of his virtuosity spread throughout India—and then Europe, Asia, and the United States—Shankar embarked on one of the most extraordinary careers in the history of contemporary music.

Shankar is a prolific composer and in addition to his numerous ragas and talas, he has written for musicians from the East and West, including Yehudi Menuhin and Jean-Pierre Rampal. Among his works are two concertos for sitar and orchestra, the first commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra and premiered under André Previn. In 1980, he was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, under the direction of Zubin Mehta, to compose Raga-Mala (A Garland of Ragas), his second sitar concerto.

He has composed extensively for ballets and films, including Satyajit Ray's Apu trilogy, which raised film music to a new standard of excellence, and Gandhi, the Academy Award-winning classic by Sir Richard Attenborough, which won him both Oscar and Grammy nominations. Shankar also composed and choreographed the ballet Ghanashyam, a work that made history on the British and Indian cultural scenes.

Shankar is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Presidential Padma Vibhushan Award (1980) and the Award of Deshikottam, given by Vishwa Bharati and presented in December 1982 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He is an honorary member of the American Academy of the Arts and Letters, and recipient of 12 doctorates. In 1986, he became a member of the Rajya Sabha, India's Upper House of Parliament. Shankar is a Fellow of the Sangeet Natak Academy and Founder President of The Research Institute for Music and the Performing Arts. In 1999, the government of India honored Shankar with its highest civilian award, the "Bharat Ratna" ("Jewel of India"). In 2000, Shankar received France's highest civilian award when he was named

“Commandeur de la Légion d’Honneur.” In March 2001, the British High Commissioner and Lady Young named Ravi Shankar an Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Ravi Shankar’s extensive discography of more than 60 albums continues to grow, and in 1996, Angel released *In Celebration*, a lavishly documented four-CD retrospective of his greatest recordings, in honor of his 75th birthday. In 2001, Angel released *Full Circle, Carnegie Hall 2000*, Shankar’s first live concert recording in nearly two decades. Angel/EMI is also continuing to release many of Shankar’s albums previously unavailable on CD. Called the “Godfather of World Music” by George Harrison, Ravi Shankar has also been named “Global Ambassador” by the World Economic Forum.

He continues to tour each season all over the world, dividing his time between India and the United States, with regular visits to Europe and the Far East. Shankar is the author of three books—*My Music, My Life* (in English), *Rag Anurag* (in Bengali), and *Raga Mala* (English)—the latest of which is an autobiography that was released in 1999.

Perhaps no greater tribute can be paid to this remarkable musician than the words of his colleague Yehudi Menuhin: “Ravi Shankar has brought me a precious gift and through him I have added a new dimension to my experience of music. To me, his genius and his humanity can only be compared to that of Mozart’s.”

Anoushka Shankar (sitar), at the young age of 21, has shown herself to be a unique artist with tremendous talent and understanding of the great musical traditions of India. Anoushka is the only artist in the world to be trained completely by her father, the legendary sitar virtuoso and composer Ravi Shankar. At age 13, she made her performing debut in New Delhi, India, and began assisting her father at all his concerts. That same year, Anoushka entered the recording studio for the first time to play on her father’s *In Celebration* recording. Two years later, she helped as conductor with her father and George Harrison on the 1997 Angel release *Chants of India*. Shortly thereafter, she signed an exclusive contract with Angel/EMI Classics. In 1998, her first solo recording, *Anoushka*, was released to tremendous critical acclaim. Her second album, *Anourag*, followed two years later. October 2001 saw the release of *Live at Carnegie Hall*, which was nominated for a Grammy Award as the Best World Music Album, making her the youngest nominee ever in that category. Anoushka also performed on her father’s Grammy Award-winning album *Full Circle: Live at Carnegie Hall*.

As her sitar career continues to blossom, Anoushka is poised to carry forward her father’s legacy as one of the most creative and influential figures in the music world. In recognition of her artistry and musicianship, the British Parliament presented Anoushka with a House of Commons Shield in 1998. She is the youngest as well as the first female recipient of this high honor.

Born in London, Anoushka grew up traveling between London and New Delhi and then moved to Encinitas, California, where she graduated from high school in 1999 with honors in all subjects. She also showed a natural talent and flair for classical piano, which she studied from the age of 10.

Anoushka now spends most of the year performing in America, Europe, and Asia. She continues touring the world with her father’s ensemble, and spends whatever time possible in New Delhi involved in the Ravi Shankar Centre’s activities.

Anoushka is also championing her father’s *Concerto No. 1 for Sitar and Orchestra*, which she first performed with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Zubin Mehta, in 1997. In July 1999, she premiered a new work for sitar and cello, written by her father, with cellist Mstislav Rostropovich at the Evian Festival, France. In February 2000, Anoushka became the first woman to perform at The Ramakrishna Centre in Calcutta. Anoushka made her conducting debut in January 2001 at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi, directing a 22-member orchestra premiering a new composition of her father’s titled *Kalyan*.

Anoushka has shared the stage with many of the world’s top celebrities. In 2000, she took part in a fundraising concert organized by Trudie Styler for the Tibet Foundation Peace Garden in London.

Other artists performing included Madonna, Vanessa Redgrave, Lulu, Bryan Adams, and Alan Rickman. Legendary producers Quincy Jones and Phil Ramone asked her to perform at the World Economic Forum in 2002 along with artists such as Bono of rock group U2, Lauryn Hill, and Peter Gabriel. At the performance, she premiered a new piece composed by her father titled *Mood Circle*.

Just months later, she took part in the star-studded Rainforest Foundation Benefit Concert in Carnegie Hall, organized by Sting and Trudie Styler and featuring Elton John, Patti La Belle, Nina Simone, James Taylor, and other legends. The evening's program was dedicated, in part, to the late George Harrison, and Anoushka performed a short piece composed by her father in Harrison's memory.

In November 2002, Anoushka conducted a new composition of her father's at the highly anticipated "Concert for George," in honor of the late George Harrison at London's Royal Albert Hall. Ravi Shankar's beautiful new composition, Arpan, featured a guitar solo by Eric Clapton and performances by 43 musicians playing Indian and Western instruments. Before taking the conductor's platform, Anoushka performed Mood Circle with Tanmoy Bose on tabla, and then joined Jeff Lynne for George Harrison's song "The Inner Light." The second half of the concert took on more of a rock-and-roll feel with headliners Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney, Tom Petty, Ringo Star, and Jeff Lynne.

Anoushka's first book was released in August 2002 by Roli Books in New Delhi. Bapi, The Love of My Life, a pictorial biography, is a rich tribute to her father's life, in which she simultaneously tells his story through text and rare and private photographs and other visuals. In February 2003, she acted in her first movie, Dance Like a Man, based on a play by the same name written by Mahesh Dattani. In it, she plays a young Bharatanatyam dancer, and had to undergo rigorous dance training to prepare for the role. Anoushka has a wide range of interests that she continues to nurture, but her devotion to the sitar and to her father's guidance is unmistakable, with a discipline that has led her into an already extraordinary performing career.

Tanmoy Bose (tabla) comes from a family of music connoisseurs, and has been exposed to the subtle nuances of music and rhythm since childhood. Though he received vocal training from Shri Maharaj Banarjee and learned harmonium from the late Montu Banarjee, the charm of rhythm attracted Bose to the tabla. A disciple of the late Kanai Dutta and Pandit Shankar Ghosh, he has developed a balanced technique that does not restrain itself to any one particular Gharana or school. He has carved a niche for himself among the younger generation of top-ranking musicians of the country. A sought-after tabla player, both as a soloist and an accompanist, he has participated in numerous prestigious musical events in India and abroad.

Arup Chattopadhyay (tabla) is recognized today as one of the most accomplished tabla artists of India. As a premier disciple of the renowned Pandit Shankar Ghosh, Chattopadhyay has established himself both as an outstanding accompanist and soloist. He started his training in tabla at the age of six and later came under the tutelage of the great tabla guru Pandit Shankar Ghosh. A respected tabla artist of the All India Radio and Doordarshan Television, Chattopadhyay records and performs frequently for the Indian broadcasting network. Since 1998, he has performed with Pandit Ravi Shankar in concerts in the United States, Europe, and India. Since 1999, he has resided in the United States, where he serves as a visiting guest lecturer of tabla at the University of California, San Diego. Chattopadhyay's recordings include The Art of Tabla Solo (2000); Guruvandhana: Tribute to Pandit Ravi Shankar's 80th Birthday, where he performs along with three other noted musicians; and another solo album in 2002. He has also appeared on CDs by Anoushka Shankar and others.

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