Festival of India III

featuring

Ravi Shankar, sitar

and

Anoushka Shankar, sitar

with

Tanmoy Bose, tabla
Partho Sarothy, sarod
Ravichandra Kulur, flute
Neyveli S. Radhakrishna, violin
Swarnima Gusain, vocals
Hari Sivanesan, veena
Pirashanna Thevarajah, percussion
Sanjeev Shankar, shehnai
Aditya Prakash, vocals
Kenji Ota, tanpura

This performance is made possible, in part, by the generous support of the members of the Cal Performances Producers Circle and Friends of Cal Performances.

Cal Performances thanks our Centennial Season Sponsor, Wells Fargo.
Ravi Shankar is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the President 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 honorary doctorates. In 1986, he became a member of the Rajya Sabha, India’s Upper House of Parliament. He 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 Mr. Shankar by awarding him his highest civilian award, the “Bharat Ratna,” or “Jewel of India.”

Grammy and Oscar for his original score to Gandhi, the Academy Award-winning classic film by Sir Richard Attenborough. He made history on both the British and Indian cultural scenes with the ballet Ghanashyam, which he wrote, composed and choreographed.

Ravi Shankar has been named the “Godfather of World Music” by George Harrison and been given the title “Global Ambassador” by the World Economic Forum.

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The next piece, Sandhya Raga—composed partly for instruments in 1987—is based on Raga Yaman Kalyan.

The final work, Viraha Milan, composed in the second week of September 2005, is in semi-classical folk style. This is a thematic composition of Radha experiencing her pang of separation from her beloved Krishna. Krishna arrives and their union or Milan creates joy and ecstasy.

The first half of the evening’s program will feature Ravi Shankar’s Festival of India III.

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The performance will begin with a Vandana, an invocation or prayer, to Lord Ganesha, the deity who removes all obstacles and brings good luck; to Saraswati, the goddess of music and all arts; to the Guru or teacher; to all forms of yoga; and finally to the awakening of the ultimate—the Kundalini. This Vandana was composed in 1974.

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Anoushka Shankar has shown herself to be a unique artist with tremendous talent and understanding of the great musical tradition of India. Anoushka is the only artist in the world to be trained completely by her father and legendary sitar virtuoso and composer, Ravi Shankar. She has been playing and studying the sitar with him since she was nine, and at age 13 she made her performing debut in New Delhi, India. That same year, Anoushka entered the recording studio for the first time to play on her father’s recording, *In Celebration*. Two years later she helped as conductor with her father and dear friend, George Harrison, on the 1997 Angel release, *Chants of India*. Shortly thereafter, she signed an exclusive contract with Angel/EMI Classics. In fall 1998, her first solo recording, *Anoushka*, was released to tremendous critical acclaim. Two albums followed, *Anoush* in 2000 and *Live at Carnegie Hall* in 2001. The latter was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best World Music Album category, making her the youngest-ever nominee in that category. She also played sitar on her father’s Grammy Award-winning album *Full Circle: Carnegie Hall 2000*, and has appeared playing sitar on several other CDs, including Sting’s *Sacred Love*.

Anoushka spent her formative years in London, where she was born in 1981. By the time she was seven, she was also living partly in New Delhi, where she still spends half the year performing and helping to take care of the newly constructed Ravi Shankar Centre. At age 11, she moved from London to Encinitas, California, where she graduated in 1999 with honors from public school. The year 2002 saw the release of *Bapi: The Love of my Life*, a biography she wrote on her father, and Anoushka has also contributed as a writer to several other books. The next year, she acted in her first film, *Dance Like a Man*. She is also a gifted classical pianist and retains a wide range of interests. 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.

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. Anoushka became the first woman to perform at The Ramakrishna Centre in Calcutta in February 2000. The Indian Television Academy, Asmi and *India Times* chose her as one of four Women of the Year in India in 2003. In 2004, Anoushka was chosen as one of 20 Asian Heroes by the Asia edition of *Time* magazine.

Anoushka made her conducting debut at age 19 in New Delhi, conducting a 22-member orchestra in the premiere of a new composition of her father’s, entitled *Kajri*. She later conducted again at the historic *Concert for George* in November 2002. The new composition of her father’s, called *Arpan*, featured a guitar solo by Eric Clapton and performances by 43 musicians playing Indian and Western instruments. Before conducting, she also played a sitar solo and performed “The Inner Light” with Jeff Lyne.

Anoushka now spends much of the year giving solo performances in Europe, America and Asia, and continues touring the world with her father’s ensemble. Anoushka is also championing her father’s *Concerto No. 1 for Sitar and Orchestra*, which she first performed with Zubin Mehta conducting the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 1991. She has premiered several new works of her father’s, including a piece for sitar and cello with legendary cellist Mstislav Rostropovich at the Evian Festival in 1999, “Mood Circle” at the World Economic Forum in New York in 2002, and “Nivedan” at the “Healing the Divide” benefit in New York City in 2003, which was organized by Richard Gere and Philip Glass and attended by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Anoushka has shared the stage with many of the world’s top celebrities, including Sting, Madonna, Nina Simone, Anjelique Kidjo, Herbie Hancock, Elton John, Peter Gabriel and James Taylor, and had the fortune to perform for such personalities as Ray Charles and Prince Charles.

After a year’s sabbatical in 2004, Anoushka has returned to the concert stage alone and with her father, but has also grown as a composer. She scored the music for a short film entitled *Ancient Marks*, and recorded her fourth solo album, *Rise*, released in September 2005, featuring several of her new compositions, played by her and many notable musicians around the world. As her solo career continues to blossom, it seems she is poised to carry forward her father’s legacy as one of the most creative and influential figures in the music world.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Anoushka Shankar**

An exceptionally talented young musician started playing the *vina* 14 years ago at the age of nine in London. He also joined Ravi Shankar in the Dartington hall project last year.

**Partho Sarothy**

A brilliant percussionist who started learning the *mridangam* at the age of nine. Ten years on, he is now a versatile percussionist who plays both eastern and western percussion and has also performed across Europe, India, Canada and the United States.

**Sanjeev Shankar**

A young talented artist belonging to a family of *sholna* players. Also a disciple of Maestro Shankar, he continues the family tradition with aplomb.

**Vocalist Aditya Prakash**, at just 17 years old, has been studying Carnatic music for the last nine years. He goes to India every December to perform in the prestigious music season and was also invited to perform at the Ravi Shankar Center in New Delhi. This is his first major tour.

**Kenji Ota**

A brilliant guitarist from Japan now living between Los Angeles and New Delhi studying the *sitar* with Ravi Shankar. He has traveled all over America and Europe with Ravi Shankar and Anoushka playing the *tanpura*.

**Tanmoy Bose**

The fabulous *tabla* player from Kolkota. A favorite of both Ravi Shankar and Anoushka, he has accompanied them for many years. He charms the audience with his stage presence and extraordinary talent.

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