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**LEGENDARY SITAR MASTER RAVI SHANKAR AND HIS DAUGHTER
ANOUSHKA SHANKAR RETURN TO ZELLERBACH HALL
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2007 AT 7:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, March 22, 2007—Sitar legend **Ravi Shankar** is arguably India's best-known musician—he has been compared by Yehudi Menuhin to Mozart and called by George Harrison “the Godfather of world music.” One of Cal Performances' most beloved artists—he first performed in Berkeley in 1957—Shankar returns to **Zellerbach Hall** on **Sunday, April 29, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.** with his favorite collaborator, **Anoushka Shankar**, who is an acclaimed sitarist in her own right. Shankar has been performing worldwide for nearly seven decades and currently holds the Guinness World Record for the longest international career. He is most renowned for his pioneering work in bringing the Indian classical music tradition to the West, particularly his association with George Harrison and the Beatles, and his appearances at such events as the Monterey Pop Festival, Woodstock and the Concert for Bangladesh. Performing with the Shankars are accomplished musicians **Tanmoy Bose** on tabla and **Ravichandra Kulur** on flute.

RAVI SHANKAR

Shankar is considered the undisputed master of the sitar—a long-necked, fretted instrument with a varying number of strings. When discussing Indian music he quotes a Sanskrit saying, *Ranjayathi iti Ragah*, which translates as “That which colors the mind is a *raga*.” Shankar explains, “The *raga* is the very heart of Indian music—the melodic form upon which the musician improvises. The traditional recital begins with the *alap*—the stately and serene exploration of the chosen *raga*. From this, the rhythm is developed and variations on the *raga*'s basic theme are elaborated.”

Shankar was born in 1920 in Varansi (Benares), the holiest of Indian cities, then moved to Paris with his Bengali Brahmin family when he was 10. His elder brother, Uday Shankar, was a well-known Indian classical dancer, and as a teenager Ravi played sitar and toured with Uday's

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dance troupe, most notably with Anna Pavlova in the Soviet Union. In 1938, Shankar began studying under his guru, Allaudin Khan, and started performing in India the following year. In 1944, his formal musical training ended, and Shankar began his recording career, as well as writing scores for film and ballet. In the 1950s, he became musical director of All India Radio and established the Vadya Vrinda, the National Chamber Orchestra. His ensuing career encompassed not only performing, composing and teaching, but also writing and even politics.

Although best known for his collaborations with rock musicians in the 1960s, Shankar has also written for Yehudi Menuhin, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Philip Glass and several prominent Japanese musicians. Glass considers Shankar a major influence, and together the two produced *Passages*, a recording of compositions in which each reworked themes composed by the other. Shankar's recording, *Tana Mana*, crossed over into the New Age genre with its unique combination of traditional instruments with electronics. His film scores include *Gandhi* (for which he was nominated for both Oscar and Grammy awards) and Satyajit Ray's *Apu* trilogy. His 2001 release, *Full Circle, Carnegie Hall 2000*, was Shankar's first live-concert recording in nearly two decades and earned him the Grammy Award for Best World Music Record.

In 1986, Shankar was nominated for membership in the Rajya Sabha, India's upper house of Parliament; he served for six years. In 1998, he was awarded the Polar Music Prize with Ray Charles. The *Bharat Ratna* ("Jewel of India"), India's highest civilian honor, was awarded to him in 1999 and in 2002, he was conferred the inaugural Indian Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award. Shankar is the author of several books, including *Music Memory; My Music, My Life*; and *Raga Mala*, his 1997 autobiography edited by George Harrison. He has three children, including Anoushka and the popular singer-songwriter Nora Jones. There is perhaps no greater tribute 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

If there is an heir to Ravi Shankar's throne, it is his 25-year-old daughter, Anoushka Shankar. Her dynamic performing career reflects not only the prodigious talent and training she received from her father, but offers sound evidence that she is an innovator in her own right. Born in London in 1981, she recalls that it was her mother, Sukanya Shankar, who first encouraged her to train on the instrument so immortalized by Ravi Shankar. She first sat down with a miniature sitar when she was only eight. She made her recording debut at 13, appearing on her father's tribute album, *In Celebration*, and two years later made her conducting debut on his record *Chants of India*, produced by close family friend, George Harrison. In 2002, she conducted *Arpan*, a new composition of her father's, at a tribute concert in London for the late Harrison, featuring a guitar solo by Eric Clapton.

Anoushka Shankar's four albums include *Anoushka* (1998), *Anourag* (2000), *Live at Carnegie Hall* (2001), which garnered her first Grammy nomination, and *Rise* (2005). The latter release, which she composed, produced and arranged, marked an artistic departure from her previous work in which she largely interpreted the music of her father. It gave her another Grammy nomination in the Best Contemporary World Music Category, and Shankar became the first Indian to play at the Grammy Awards in 2006. She has received a House of Commons Shield from the British House of Parliament, making her both the youngest and first female recipient of that high honor. In 2004, she earned a Best Supporting Actress nomination from India's National Film Awards for her debut acting role in *Dance Like a Man*, and that same year was chosen as one of 20 Asian Heroes by the Asia edition of *Time* magazine.

Also performing with Ravi and Anoushka Shankar are **Tanmoy Bose** and **Ravichandra Kulur**. Bose was born into a family of music connoisseurs and has studied the instrument under the late Kanai Dutta and Pandit Shakar Ghosh. A frequent performer with both Ravi Shankar and Anoushka Shankar, Bose has also created his own rhythm fusion band called *Dhwani*. Ravichandra Kulur began performing solo when he was 12, and has since emerged as one of India's leading flutists. Although he trained in the rich South Indian Carnatic style, he is equally at ease performing from classical to world fusion music. He has released six solo albums.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Ravi Shankar** and **Anoushka Shankar** on **Sunday, April 29** at **7:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$36.00**, **\$46.00** and **\$68.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, April 29 at **7:00 p.m.**

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Ravi Shankar, sitar

Anoushka Shankar, sitar

Tanmoy Bose, tabla

Ravichandra Kulur, flute

Program: Master sitarist Ravi Shankar performs with his daughter Anoushka..

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