

FOR IMMEDIATE
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**SITAR LEGEND RAVI SHANKAR
APPEARS WITH HIS DAUGHTER, SITARIST ANOUSHKA SHANKAR
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2003 AT 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, August 12, 2003 – “If any single figure was instrumental in opening the public’s eyes to music from other parts of the world, it was Indian sitarist, **Ravi Shankar**. He has remained, for many, the single most recognizable world music artist,” comments *The Times*, London of the renowned Ravi Shakar. Shankar appears with his daughter **Anoushka Shankar**, an artist of tremendous talent and international reputation in her own right, **Friday, September 19, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall.

RAVI SHANKAR

Master of the sitar—an ornate, long-necked instrument with a varying number of strings that are plucked—**Ravi Shankar** is in many ways India’s most famous musical ambassador. Born in 1920 in Benares, India, Shankar went on tour with his elder brother’s dance troupe at the age of ten, where he was exposed to the brilliant multi-instrumental expertise of Ustad Allaudin Khan. He became a student of Khan’s, and studied the sitar for several years in relative isolation. When his training was over, he began to give public recitals all over India, and from 1949 to 1956 worked as the music director in Delhi for All India Radio, during which time he established the Vadya Vrinda, the National Chamber Orchestra. As word of his virtuosity spread first throughout India, then Europe, Asia and the United States, Shankar embarked on one of the most extraordinary careers—as a performer, composer, teacher, writer, even politician—in the history of contemporary music.

In addition to his famed collaboration with the Beatles and other rock musicians during the 1960s, Shankar has written for Yehudi Menuhin, Jean-Pierre Rampal and various Japanese artists. He composed two concertos for sitar and orchestra, the first commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra (premiered under André Previn in 1971) and the other commissioned by the New York Philharmonic in 1980, under the direction of Zubin Mehta. He has composed extensively for ballets and

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his film scores include *Ghandi* (for which he was nominated for both Oscar and Grammy awards) and director Satyajit Ray's *Apu* trilogy.

During his career, Shankar has received numerous honors. Recent awards include the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award granted by the government of India; the Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur given by the French government; and in March 2001 Shankar was knighted by the Queen of England. He has received three Grammy Awards, the latest for the live recording *Full Circle: Carnegie Hall 2000* on Angel Records. Shankar's extensive discography of more than 60 albums continues to grow, and in 1996 Angel released *In Celebration*, a four-CD retrospective of his greatest recordings, in honor of his 75th birthday. In addition to life as an artist, Shankar has engaged in the political life, serving a six-year term (1986-92) in India's parliamentary upper chamber, the Rajya Sabha. He has authored three books—*My Music My Life*, *Rag Anurag*, and *Raga Mala*—the latter an autobiography which was published in 1999.

ANOUSHKA SHANKAR

Ravi Shankar shares the stage September 19 with his daughter **Anoushka Shankar**. Born in London, she began training under her father at the age of nine on a custom-designed child's sitar. At age 11 Anoushka Shankar moved to California, where she graduated from high school with honors in 1999. Now 22, she is a swiftly rising international star, spending most of her time traveling the world performing solo as well as with her father's ensemble. In recognition of her artistry and musicianship (she is an accomplished classical pianist as well as sitarist), in 1998 she became the youngest as well as the lone female recipient of the British Parliament's House of Commons Shield. She was a finalist two times for the New Age Voice Music Award in the Best Traditional World Album category, first for *Anoushka*, and then for 2001's *Live at Carnegie Hall*. She has also recorded a third album, *Anourag*, on Angel Records.

Recent performance highlights include the world premiere of a work written by her father for sitar and cello at the 1999 Evian Festival with cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. In 2000, Anoushka Shankar became the first woman to perform at the Ramakrishna Centre in Calcutta; and in 2001 she made her conducting debut at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi with a 22-member orchestra, performing a new and intricate composition by her father entitled *Kalyan*. In 2002 she took part in the Rainforest

Foundation Benefit Concert at Carnegie Hall. The event, organized by Sting and Trudie Styler, was dedicated in part to the late George Harrison, and the young sitarist performed a short piece composed by her father in Harrison's memory.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Ravi Shankar** and **Anoushka Shankar** on **Friday, September 19** at **8:00 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

Friday, September 19 at **8:00 p.m.**

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

World Stage

Ravi Shankar, sitar

Anoushka Shankar, sitar

Program: TBA.

Tickets: **\$36.00, \$46.00** and **\$68.00**, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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