LINEUP OF GUEST ARTISTS ANNOUNCED FOR SYMPHONY CENTER CONCERT CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC ICON RAVI SHANKAR

Program Features Anoushka Shankar with a Collective of Ravi Shankar’s Disciples and Students

Friday, May 22, at 8:00 p.m.

CHICAGO—Sitar player Anoushka Shankar celebrates the legacy of her father, Indian classical music icon Ravi Shankar, during the centennial year of his birth with a Symphony Center Presents concert on Friday, May 22, at 8:00 p.m. Curated by both Anoushka Shankar and her mother, Sukanya Shankar, the concert commemorates Ravi Shankar’s influences on the music world, while featuring a lineup that includes many of his foremost disciples and students.

Ravi Shankar was one of the giants of 20th-century music and an international cultural ambassador for India. As a virtuoso performer on sitar, an acclaimed composer and an inspirational teacher, he was an Indian classical artist of the highest order, and across nine decades he influenced the worldwide spread of Indian music and culture. He first appeared at Orchestra Hall at the age of 13 as a dancer in his brother Uday’s dance troupe. Between 1997 and 2008, Shankar performed at Symphony Center on eight separate occasions, receiving acclaim for his expressive sitar-playing and compositions.

For the centenary of his birth in 2020, his wife, Sukanya Shankar, and sitarist-daughter, Anoushka Shankar, have curated a series of concerts in his favorite cities across the world. This Symphony Center Presents concert celebrates Ravi Shankar’s life and legacy with an evening of Indian classical music performed by his daughter and a collective of his former students and disciples performing on traditional Indian instruments including Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, mohan veena; Tarun Bhattacharya, santoor; Partho Sarothy, sarod; Shubhendra Rao, sitar; Gauruv Mazumdar, sitar; Bikram Ghosh, tabla; Tanmoy Bose, tabla; Barry Phillips, cello; Aditya Verma,
Sitar player and composer Anoushka Shankar is a singular figure in the Indian classical and progressive world music scenes. Her dynamic and spiritual musicality has garnered several prestigious accolades, including five Grammy Award nominations, recognition as the youngest – and first female – recipient of a British House of Commons Shield, credit as an Asian Hero by TIME magazine, and a Songlines Best Artist Award. Deeply rooted in the Indian classical music tradition, Shankar studied exclusively from the age of nine under her father and guru, the late Ravi Shankar, and made her professional debut as a classical sitarist at the age of 13. By the age of 20, she had made three classical recordings and received her first Grammy nomination, becoming the first Indian female and youngest-ever nominee in the World Music category. As a composer, Shankar has encouraged cross-cultural dialogue while demonstrating the versatility of the sitar across musical genres. As a result, she has created a vital body of work with a prominent roster of artists such as Sting, M.I.A, Herbie Hancock, Pepe Habichuela, Karsh Kale, Rodrigo y Gabriela, and Joshua Bell.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents concerts can be purchased by phone at 800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000, online at cso.org or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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Symphony Center Presents  
Friday, May 22, 2020, 8:00 p.m.  
Anoushka Shankar & Friends Celebrate the Centenary of Ravi Shankar

Anoushka Shankar, sitar  
Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, mohan veena  
Tarun Bhattacharya, santoor  
Partho Sarothy, sarod  
Shubhendra Rao, sitar  
Gauruv Mazumdar, sitar  
Bikram Ghosh, tabla  
Tanmoy Bose, tabla  
Barry Phillips, cello  
Aditya Verma, sarod  
Ravichandra Kular, flute  
Sanjeev Shankar, shehnai  
Ashwani Shankar, shehnai
BC Manjunath, mridangam
Pratik Shrivastava, sarod
Pirashanna Thevarajah, mridangam, ghatam and morsing
Kenji Ota, tanpura
Nick Able, tanpura
Indrani Mukherjee, vocals
Sudakshina Alagia, vocals

Tickets: $40-$110

**Featured Artists for this Performance:**
Anoushka Shankar

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra [cso.org](http://cso.org) and [csosoundsandstories.org](http://csosoundsandstories.org)**

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 62 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at [cso.org/radio](http://cso.org/radio). Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti’s first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [www.cso.org/resound](http://www.cso.org/resound).

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert led by Muti, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.