

Anoushka Shankar

Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 8:00pm

This is the 939th concert in Koerner Hall

Anoushka Shankar, sitar

Ojas Adhiya, tabla

Pirashanna Thevarajah, mridangam

Ravichandra Kulur, flute

Danny Keane, cello & piano

Kenji Ota, tanpura

Anoushka Shankar

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 six 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, an Eastern Eye Award for Music, and a *Songlines* Best Artist Award. Most recently, she became one of the first five female composers to have been added to the UK A-level music syllabus.

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 for EMI/Angel and received her first Grammy nomination, thereby becoming the first Indian female and youngest-ever nominee in the world music category. She is also the first Indian artist to perform at the Grammy Awards.

In addition to performing as a solo sitarist, her compositional work has led to cross-cultural collaborations with artists such as Sting, M.I.A., Herbie Hancock, Pepe Habichuela, Karsh Kale, Rodrigo y Gabriela, and Joshua Bell, demonstrating the versatility of the sitar across musical genres.

The 2018-19 season sees a tour of the Netherlands with the Metropole Orkest featuring orchestrations of her works by Jules Buckley, live performances of her film score, *Shiraz*, at the Royal Festival Hall and Dublin National Concert Hall, and a unique re-imagining of Ravi Shankar and Philip Glass's "Passages" at the Paris Philharmonie with her own ensemble alongside the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris. She tours the USA in a new program reflecting on her journey so far: drawing on classical ragas and experimenting with new ideas in a cross-cultural dialogue that showcases the versatility of the sitar.

Anoushka Shankar made her Royal Conservatory debut on October 17, 2009, during Koerner Hall's inaugural concert season, with her father, Ravi Shankar. Tonight marks her fourth appearance in Koerner Hall.