



WASHINGTON  
PERFORMING ARTS

2025/26 SEASON



*Strathmore & Washington Performing Arts Present*

# Ravi Shankar Ensemble

MARCH 19, 2026 / 8:00 P.M.

MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE



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*Strathmore & Washington Performing Arts Present*

# Ravi Shankar Ensemble

MARCH 19, 2026 / 8:00 P.M.  
MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE

Shubhendra Rao, *sitar*  
Ravichandra Kulur, *flute*  
B C Manjunath, *mridangam*  
Anubrata Chatterjee, *tabla*  
Padma Shankar, *violin & vocals*  
Aayush Mohan, *sarod & vocals*

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*Washington Performing Arts's 60th anniversary year is generously sponsored by Dr. Gary Mather<sup>†</sup> and Ms. Christina Co Mather.*

*This performance is made possible in part by the generous support of Lisa and Gordon Rush.*

*Special thanks to the following lead supporters of Washington Performing Arts's mission-driven work: Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated; D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities; the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts; The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; and Events DC.*

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*Cover photo provided by Schirmer Theatrical*

# SHOW DESCRIPTION

*This performance is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.*

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Curated by Sukanya and Anoushka Shankar, the Ravi Shankar Ensemble is a multi-generational collective of world-class musicians dedicated to the masterful compositions and enduring legacy of the uniquely legendary musician, Ravi Shankar. In its debut tour, the ensemble presents a special program featuring visual elements from the Ravi Shankar archives alongside a dynamic selection of Shankar's soul-stirring music.

Shankar was instrumental in introducing Western audiences to the classical tradition of Indian ragas. He popularized Indian classical music globally through his teaching, performances, and collaborations with Western musicians like Yehudi Menuhin, Philip Glass, and George Harrison.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

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**Gurur Bramha**

**Guru Vandana**

**Sandhya Raga**

**Tarana**

**Jaane Kaise**

**Spring**

**Jogeshwari**

**Manj Khamaj**

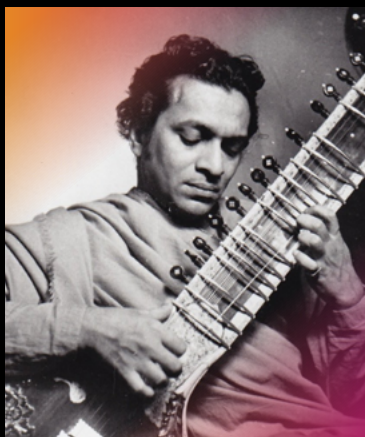
**Fire Night**

**Raga Rasiya**

*All compositions by Ravi Shankar.*

# MEET THE ARTISTS

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## **RAVI SHANKAR**

In a career that spanned decades and continents, Maestro Ravi Shankar had an indelible imprint on global music history and culture. A virtuosic Indian musician and composer known for his mastery of the sitar, Shankar was a leading global figure of the 20th century and a major figure in the Hindustani music tradition, reshaping the centuries-old form into what is now as recognized as today and introducing Western audiences to the classical tradition of Indian Ragas. He popularized Indian classical

music globally through his teaching, performances, and collaborations with Western musicians like Yehudi Menuhin, Philip Glass and George Harrison. His compositions for sitar and orchestra bridged the gap between Eastern and Western music. Shankar received the Bharat Ratna (India's highest civilian honor), France's Legion D'Honneur, a Knighthood from Queen Elizabeth, eighteen honorary doctorates and five Grammy awards, including a rare Lifetime Achievement Award.



## **SHUBENDRA RAO, sitar**

Pandit Shubendra Rao is an internationally acclaimed performer, composer, cultural entrepreneur and music educator. A protégé of Bharat Ratna Pandit Ravi Shankar, Shubendra Rao's relentless service in promoting Indian music has made him a highly respected figure in the field of music and education across the world. As a composer, he pushes the boundaries of classical music across cultures, composing and collaborating with Chinese Pipa maestro

Gao Hong, American Jazz Guitarist Freddie Bryant, Japanese legendary singer Ryoko Moriyama, Bilbao Symphony Orchestra, Brazilian Symphony Orchestra, and the Chinese National Orchestra, amongst others. He is also the Founding Director of Musikul Education Pvt Ltd and co-founder of the Shubhendra and Saskia Rao Foundation, together with his wife, Dutch Cellist Saskia Rao-de Haas, transforming the way music is taught in schools in India. Together, they created Sangeet4All, India's first early childhood music education curriculum, reaching over 80,000 children to date. As the Indian delegate of the Creative Youth Development Conference hosted by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, he collaborates with an international team of experts on creating effective international policies on Child & Youth Arts Education. Shubhendra Rao is the first recipient of the Atal Behari Vajpayee National Award for his contribution to Art and Culture and the 2019 recipient of the prestigious Art Karat Award for Excellence for his contribution in the field of arts.



### **RAVICHANDRA KULUR, flute**

Ravichandra Kulur is an internationally acclaimed flute virtuoso. He began his training under his father Sri K. Raghavendra Rao and was later hailed as flute maestro by legend Pandit Ravi Shankar who invited to join him for the 2005-2006 concerts titled "Festival of India III." Kulur has performed over 1,200 concerts in 34 countries, gracing stages like Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Royal Festival Hall and Sydney Opera House, not to mention festivals including WOMAD, Roskilde, SF, Helsinki Festival, Bangalore

Habba and many more. Ravi's music blends Carnatic classical, world music and fusion jazz. In addition to Ravi Shankar, he has collaborated with Anoushka Shankar and AR Rahman.



### **PADMA SHANKAR, violin/vocals**

Padma Shankar is an acclaimed performer, composer and educator, known for her evocative artistry and deep-rooted training in the South Indian classical tradition. A senior disciple of the legendary violin maestro Shri Lalgudi Jayaraman, Padma carries forward his legacy with a nuanced blend of melody, rhythm, and emotional depth. With over three decades of professional experience, Padma has performed extensively across India and internationally, both as a soloist and in major collaborative projects. Her work

bridges classical, contemporary and global genres, making her a sought-after voice in both experimental and cross-cultural music settings. Padma has been honored with the prestigious Kalaimamani Award—the highest state recognition for excellence in the arts in Tamil Nadu—along with numerous other accolades for her contributions to Indian classical music. A dedicated educator, Padma has guided a significant number of students worldwide and recently launched Swaraved, a platform offering self-paced violin and vocal courses designed to empower independent learning.



### **AAYUSH MOHAN, sarod**

Aayush Mohan is one of the most acclaimed Sarod players on the global stage. Known for his distinguished musicality and mastery of the Indian tradition, Aayush is a proud grand-disciple of Bharat Ratna Pandit Ravi Shankar. His training belongs to the revered Senia-Maihar Gharana, having learnt from Balwant Rai Verma, Sharan Rani and Tejendra Majumdar. Apart from his sarod recitals, he often performs alongside his brother, sitarist Lakshay Mohan, the duo being known as the

Mohan Brothers. Together, they performed at the prestigious Grammy Museum in Los Angeles at the opening of the exhibition, "Ravi Shankar: A Life in Music." The duo received a historic endorsement when the Pandit Ravi Shankar upon hearing them in 2012, launched them on their debut U.S. tour under his foundation.

Aayush has performed at some of the most respected venues across the world, including Symphony Space in New York City, Berklee College of Music, Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, the India Fine Arts Academy in San Diego, and Gasteig in Munich. A five-time TEDx speaker, Aayush has also presented lecture-demonstrations at esteemed institutions such as Wien State University in Detroit and University of the Arts in Philadelphia.



### **BC MANJUNATH, mridangam**

BC Manjunath is a dynamic artist who revealed an innate musical talent and interest in percussion from a young age, encouraged by his father, legendary mridangam player, Vidwan B K Chandramouli. Later he enlarged this musical perspective by training in Mridanga under Karnataka Kalashree K N Krishna Murthy and Sangeetha Kalanidhi Sri T.K.Murthy. Manjunath's creative impulses have flowered in various forms, from classical to fusion and in solo and ensemble performances, accompanying

many great artists from India and abroad, including Sangeetha Kalaratna, Sri R R Keshavamurthy, Sangeetha Kalaratna Sri H P Ramachar, Mysore M Nagaraj and Dr. Mysore M Manjunath (aka Mysore Brothers), Dr. Suma Sudhindra and Chitraveena N Ravikiran. He has also shared the stage with international legends like Turkish Sufi singer Kani Karaca and trombonist Robin Eubanks. He has worked with composers Rafael Reina, Riccardo Nova, members of Bhedam and with Conservatorium of Amsterdam, The Karnatic Lab Festival, Zagreb Music Biennale, Fabrica Italy, Santander Percussion Festival (Spain), Perth International Festival, Roma Europe Festival, Milano Musica/John Cage Festival, Ictus Ensemble (Belgium), Quintetto Bibiena (Italy) and Het Nederlands Fluit Orkest. He has designed extensive online courses on Konnakol and Mridangam for rhythm enthusiasts on platforms like Livdemy and Shaale.



## **ANUBRATA CHATTERJEE, tabla**

Anubrata Chatterjee is one of the leading tabla artists of his generation. He is the son and disciple of the world-renowned tabla maestro, Pandit Anindo Chatterjee. Anubrata's creative approach toward his music includes the traditional Farrukhabad Gharana and Lucknow styles of tabla as well as a modern touch in the presentation of his art with concepts like *Beats & Pieces*, *The T20 of Classical Music*. From Carnegie Hall to the Barbican in London from Wigmore Hall in London, to the Esplanade

Theatre in Singapore, Anubrata has performed at many prestigious venues and music festivals, and he has shared the stage with well-known artists globally, including Japanese Koto star, Yumi Kurosawa, Wynton Marsalis, Amjad Ali Khan, Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Birju Maharaj, Ranjit Barot and Shankar Mahadeyan. Anubrata has won several awards and accolades, among the most significant, the President's Gold Medal (2001), awarded by All India Radio; Pandit Nikhil Ghosh Memorial Award (2002); Pandit Basavaraj Rajguru Memorial National Award by Karnataka Government (2014), and Sangeet Natak Akademi Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (2016).

# CREDITS

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*Photos and videos courtesy of The Ravi Shankar Archives*

*The Ravi Shankar Ensemble is curated by Sukanya Shankar and Anoushka Shankar and produced by **Schirmer Theatrical**, part of Wise Music Group.*



*The Ravi Shankar Ensemble is traveling across America. Visit [theravishankarensemble.com](http://theravishankarensemble.com) for upcoming dates!*

## ARTIST & CREATIVE BIOS

**Maestro Ravi Shankar** has had an indelible imprint on global music history and culture. With a career that spanned decades and continents, he was a virtuosic Indian musician and composer known for his mastery of the sitar. Ravi Shankar was a leading cultural figure of the 20th century

# Join Washington Performing Arts for an upcoming performance!



Photo by Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

## **Recitalist Series**

### **Annual Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Recital**

#### **PACIFICA QUARTET**

#### **WITH NARRATOR NINA TOTENBERG**

#### **Revolutionary Portraits: Our Better Angels**

Sunday, April 12, 2026 / 7:30 p.m.

Sixth & I

Join the acclaimed Pacifica Quartet for an evening of music and storytelling that celebrates the enduring spirit of American resilience and transformation.

*Special Thanks: Dr. Gary Mather<sup>r</sup> and Ms. Christina Co Mather; Betsy and Robert Feinberg; Mr. Michael Sonnenreich; Thomas J. Kim and John F. Olson; Dr. and Mrs. Abe Cherrick; Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Eagle; an anonymous supporter; and contributors to the RBG Fund.*



Photos by Andrew Eccles

## **JEAN-YVES THIBAUDET, PIANO**

Thursday, April 23, 2026 / 7:30 p.m.

Music Center at Strathmore

Internationally acclaimed pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, praised by the Los Angeles Times as “a master colorist” whose “every note he plays is a pearl,” brings his unparalleled artistry to Debussy’s complete Préludes, Books I & II.

*Special thanks: Dr. Gary Mather<sup>r</sup> and Ms. Christina Co Mather; Betsy and Robert Feinberg; Mary and Chris Mahle; Anne and Burton Fishman; Dina al Sabah and David Alden; Ellen and Michael Gold; Maria Voultsides and Thomas C. Chisnell, II; Gary and Silvia Yacoubian/SVS; and Jenny Bilfield and Joel Phillip Friedman.*



Photo by Suro Das

## **SAROD TRILOGY**

### **with Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Amaan Ali**

### **Bangash, and Ayaan Ali Bangash**

Saturday, May 2, 2026 / 7:30 p.m.

Sixth & I

Ustad Amjad Ali Khan returns to the stage joined by his sons and fellow sarod virtuosos, Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, in a rare and deeply moving musical encounter. With a lineage spanning six generations, the trio brings to life the rich traditions of intricate ragas with heartfelt improvisation and rhythmic interplay.

*Special Thanks: Dr. Gary Mather<sup>r</sup> and Ms. Christina Co Mather; and Lisa and Gordon Rush.*

Tickets and Information at [WashingtonPerformingArts.org](https://WashingtonPerformingArts.org)

# ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

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One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has engaged for 60 years with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: for decades, in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we have presented a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, gospel music, jazz, international genres, and more.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events in a myriad of performance venues and neighborhoods, Washington Performing Arts engages international visiting artists in community programs and introduces local artists to wider audiences.

We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through residencies and education programs.

For its achievements, Washington Performing Arts has been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with four Mayor's Arts Awards from the D.C. Government. We have now embarked upon our second half-century, ever inspired by the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

EXPLORE PERFORMANCES AND MORE AT

[WashingtonPerformingArts.org](http://WashingtonPerformingArts.org)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS

*Follow Washington Performing Arts on social media for artist insights, behind-the-scenes content, music news, and more.*



WashingtonPerformingArts

# ABOUT STRATHMORE

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Strathmore is a multidimensional, creative anchor in Montgomery County, Maryland, where everyone can connect with the arts, and artists can explore their full potential. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Strathmore is dedicated to amplifying artistic voices and curating experiences that enrich every life and shape stronger communities. While best known for world-class performances in its iconic Music Center, Strathmore also presents hundreds of accessible and affordable concerts, exhibitions, and education programs across its multi-venue campus and throughout the county. Strathmore nurtures artists through its renowned Artists in Residence Program, and Arts & Social Justice Fellowship, as well as through meaningful collaborations with student artists. It offers comprehensive, community-focused programs and provides opportunities to experience the arts from every conceivable angle.

EXPLORE PERFORMANCES AND MORE AT

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# THE RUTH BADER GINSBURG MEMORIAL FUND

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The **Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Fund** was established by Washington Performing Arts in 2021 to honor the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's life, legacy, and passion for music with an annual award to a distinguished artist that includes the opportunity to choose a musical talent deserving of wider recognition to be presented in a Washington Performing Arts recital in Justice Ginsburg's memory.

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<sup>†</sup> *deceased*

*As of May 1, 2025*

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Legacy Society members appreciate the vital role that performing arts play in the community, as well as in their own lives. By remembering Washington Performing Arts in their will or estate plans, members enhance our annual fund, endowment, or donor-designated programs and help make it possible for the next generations to enjoy the same quality and diversity of presentations both on stages and in our schools and community.

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*In memory of Y. H. and T. F. Wu*

† deceased  
*As of January 15, 2025*

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Executive Assistant .....	Audrey Witmore

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Manager of Special Events .....	Sarah Frances Williams
Manager of Advancement Operations & Analytics .....	Reema Kattan
Advancement Coordinator .....	Scott Hounsou
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Senior Manager of Choir Operations .....	Kathy Brewington
Recruitment & Production Coordinator for Gospel Music Programs .....	Tevin Price

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Choreographer, Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs .....	Karon Johnson
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