

Anoushka Shankar

Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 8pm

This is the 1,225th concert in Koerner Hall

Anoushka Shankar, sitar

Arun Ghosh, clarinet

Tom Farmer, bass

Sarathy Korwar, drums

Pirashanna Thevarajah, Indian percussion

In the fall of 2023, Anoushka Shankar brings to North America a new quintet of musicians, with whom she has carved out a new, multifaceted, and dynamic sound as they perform music from her newly released mini album alongside thoroughly shaken-up, reinterpreted gems from her previous releases, including last year's Grammy Award nominated live album, *Between Us ... The quintet*, representing the very best of the thriving London music scene.

The quintet comprises of clarinetist Arun Ghosh, drummer-composer Sarathy Korwar, Carnatic percussionist Pirashanna Thevarajah, and bassist Tom Farmer, each of whom are startlingly talented solo artists in their own right.

Premiered for the first time in India in December 2022, this quintet has been hailed as one of the best ensembles to have toured with Anoushka across her 28-year global performing career. The energy and camaraderie on stage is unmatched as Shankar leads the way in pioneering a new sound through inventive arrangements, sensitive virtuosity, and a neoclassical approach to the music tradition to which she belongs.

Anoushka Shankar

To read a list of Anoushka Shankar's accomplishments is to read many life stories in one: masterful sitarist; film composer; impassioned activist; the youngest and first female recipient of a British House of Commons Shield; the first Indian musician to perform live or to serve as presenter at the Grammy Awards with nine nominations under her belt, and the first Indian woman to be nominated; one of the first five female composers to have been added onto the UK A-level music syllabus. Immersed from a young age on the world stage, with over a quarter-century's performing behind her, she is a singular, genre-defying artist across realms – classical and contemporary, acoustic and electronic.

Anoushka began studying the sitar from the age of nine under the intensive tutelage of her father, Pandit Ravi Shankar. After making her professional debut at 13, she began touring worldwide alongside her father and subsequently embarked on a successful touring career when she was 18.

Signing to Deutsche Grammophon in 2011 marked the start of a decade of unbridled fertility. Over the course of four distinct albums, each Grammy nominated, disparate threads were woven into a tapestry, even as themes shifted and sound palettes expanded. *Love Letters* is Anoushka's most recent release.

She has collaborated with Herbie Hancock, Patti Smith, Joshua Bell, Gold Panda, Rodrigo y Gabriela, Jules Buckley, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and her touring career has taken her from legendary jazz cafes to iconic symphony halls and festival stages in front of 40,000 people.

As an activist, she has been outspoken about her experiences as a woman and a survivor of child abuse, and, in 2020, she was announced as the inaugural President of the F-List: a UK database created to help bridge the gender-gap in music, as well as an Ambassador for The Walk: an international artistic project in support of refugees.

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 fifth appearance in Koerner Hall.