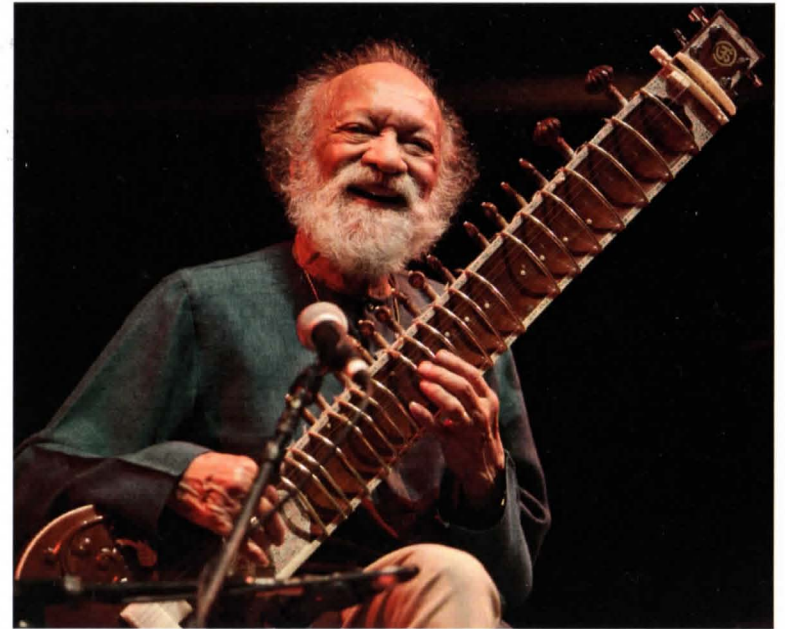


The Ravi Shankar Foundation
peace through music



Ravi Shankar Memorial



December 20th, 2012
Self-Realization Fellowship
Encinitas, California



~ Program ~

Prayer Offering by Dr. Nandakumar of
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, London

Welcome Address by Brother Sevananda

Speeches and Tributes

Songs by Pandit Ravi Shankar, performed by
students of Dr. Venkatachalam, San Diego



The Shankar Family would like to thank everyone for
the outpouring of love and support they have
received in this time of bereavement. They ask you to
join them in celebrating the extraordinary life of Pandit
Ravi Shankar, beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather,
Guru and Friend.

Please help us keep the vision of Pandit Ravi Shankar alive by
donating to the Ravi Shankar Foundation at www.JustGive.org

Obituary by Oliver Craske

Ravi Shankar, who has died aged 92, was one of the giants of twentieth century music. As a performer, composer and teacher, he was an Indian classical artist of the highest rank, and he spearheaded the worldwide spread of Indian music and culture.

A Bengali Brahmin, he was born Robindra Shankar in 1920 in India's holiest city, Varanasi, the youngest of four brothers who survived to adulthood, and spent his first ten years in relative poverty, brought up by his mother. He was almost eight before he met his absent father, a globe-trotting lawyer, philosopher, writer and former minister to the Maharajah of Jhalawar.

In 1930 his eldest brother Uday Shankar uprooted the family to Paris, and over the next eight years Ravi enjoyed the limelight in Uday's troupe, which toured the world introducing Europeans and Americans (and many Indians) to Indian classical and folk dance, in a foreshadowing of Ravi's own pioneering of Indian music two decades later.

But the decisive influence on his life was his music guru. Rejecting showbusiness, in 1938 Shankar began seven years of intensive guru-shishya training with Ustad Allauddin Khan, living under the same roof. This was the period when he began to develop into a musician of uncommon powers.

Even though he was world-renowned by the end of the 1950s, he achieved heightened fame in the 1960s when he was embraced by the Western counter-culture. Through his influence on his great friend George Harrison, and appearances at the Monterey and Woodstock festivals and the Concert for Bangladesh, he became a household name in the West, the first Indian musician to do so. To a movement challenging accepted values, he symbolised the genius of an ancient, wiser culture.

If he could walk with these kings and prime ministers, he never lost the common touch. Friends loved his impish sense of fun, which complemented his air of dignity and authority. In the words of the filmmaker Mark Kidel, who produced an award-winning 2002 documentary on Shankar, he had 'a marvellously light touch and a strong spiritual core'.

He never contemplated retirement, and every year arranged tours. In the tradition of Indian music one never stops learning, and he gave the lie to the notion that age must bring a diminishing of creativity. In 2009 he said, 'I feel very strongly that I am now a much better musician than ever before, so much more creative. Maybe I don't have the same speed or stamina of youth, but believe me, I have trouble sleeping these days because so much music is going through my head.'

In 2011 the Los Angeles Times ventured that 'Music may not have, precisely, saints. But no musician alive is a closer fit.' It's a verdict that he would have rejected, but the millions whose lives he touched may agree with it.

