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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Mondavi Center Presents Ravi and Anoushka Shankar in Jackson Hall

Davis, Calif.—The **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**, UC Davis, presents legendary sitar player **Ravi Shankar** and his daughter (and fellow sitarist) **Anoushka Shankar** in **Jackson Hall** on **Wednesday, May 13, at 8 p.m.** In this rare joint appearance, Ravi and Anoushka Shankar each will perform separately and then join forces for a brief duo performance. A **Pre-performance Lecture** with classical guitarist **Matthew Grasso** of Sacramento City College will take place at **7 p.m.** in the **Studio Theatre**.

Says **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center executive director, “It is an honor to bring Ravi Shankar, a true master of our time, to the Mondavi Center stage for the first time, and to welcome back Anoushka Shankar, who has evolved a 21st-century approach to the sitar. This is an opportunity to hear two great artists from one of the great musical traditions of the world.”

Pricing is \$60/50/30 for regular tickets and \$30/25/15 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at MondaviArts.org, through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. This event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **Master of Our Time Series**.

Legendary virtuoso sitarist, composer, teacher and writer **Ravi Shankar** is India's most esteemed musical ambassador and a singular phenomenon whose artistry crosses all cultural and musical boundaries. A student of the illustrious guru “Baba” Ustad Allaudin Khan, Mr. Shankar was already one of the brightest stars in India before coming to international attention in the 1960s. Since then, he has been the foremost pioneer in disseminating India’s rich classical music tradition to the West.

A prolific and sought-after composer, Ravi Shankar has written numerous works for Western collaborations, in addition to his many traditional ragas and talas. His Concerto for Sitar and Orchestra was commissioned and premiered by the London Symphony Orchestra under André Previn. A second sitar concerto, “Raga-Mala” (A Garland of Ragas), was commissioned and premiered by the New York Philharmonic under the direction of Zubin Mehta in 1980. Shankar’s chamber works for sitar and other instruments includes violin-sitar compositions for the distinguished violinist Yehudi Menuhin and himself, and works for flute virtuoso Jean-Pierre Rampal, shakuhachi master Hosan Yamamoto and koto virtuoso Musumi Miyashita. Shankar has enjoyed a close relationship with Philip Glass, collaborating with the composer on the 1990 album “Passages” and the recent multi-artist work “Orion,” which opened the 2004 Cultural Olympiad in Greece. Glass last performed at the Mondavi Center in February.

Ravi Shankar has composed extensively for film and ballet. His scores for Satyajit Ray's acclaimed "Apu" trilogy raised film music to a new standard of excellence, and he was nominated for both a Grammy and an Oscar for his original score to "Gandhi," the Academy-Award-winning classic by Sir Richard Attenborough. He made history on both the British and Indian cultural scenes with the ballet "Ghanashyam," which he wrote, composed and choreographed.

Ravi Shankar's extensive discography of more than 60 albums includes Angel Records' 1996 release "In Celebration," a lavishly documented four-CD retrospective of his greatest recordings issued in honor of his 75th birthday, and the 2001 Angel release "Full Circle, Carnegie Hall 2000." For this, Shankar's first live-concert recording in nearly two decades, he received the Grammy Award for Best World Music Record. Angel/EMI continues to release Mr. Shankar's albums, many of which were previously unavailable on CD.

Shankar continues to tour each season all over the world. He divides his time between India and the United States, with regular visits to Europe and the Far East. He is the author of three books: "My Music, My Life" (in English), "Rag Anurag" (in Bengali) and "Raga Mala," (in English), an autobiography that was released in 1999.

Ravi Shankar has been named the Godfather of World Music by George Harrison and been given the title Global Ambassador by the World Economic Forum. However, there may be no greater tribute paid to this remarkable musician than the words of his colleague Yehudi Menuhin: "Ravi Shankar has brought me a precious gift, and through him I have added a new dimension to my experience of music. To me, his genius and his humanity can only be compared to that of Mozart's."

Sitar player and composer **Anoushka Shankar** has emerged as one of the leading figures in world music today. She is deeply rooted in Indian classical music, having studied exclusively with her father Ravi Shankar, and is now one of the foremost performers in that tradition. In tandem with this, she has flourished as a performer and composer, exploring fertile ground in the crossover between Indian music and a variety of genres including electronica, jazz, flamenco and Western classical music.

Anoushka Shankar has been playing and studying the sitar with her father since she was nine. At age 13, she made her performance debut in New Delhi. That same year, she entered the recording studio for the first time, to play "Adarini" on her father's album "In Celebration." Two years later, she made her debut as a conductor on her father's "Chants of India" album, produced by George Harrison. Shortly thereafter, she signed an exclusive record contract with Angel/EMI, and in the autumn of 1998 her first solo recording, "Anoushka," was released to critical acclaim. "Anourag" (2000), her second release, expanded upon and refined what she had previously recorded and was followed by "Live at Carnegie Hall" (2001), which garnered her first Grammy nomination, making her the youngest-ever nominee in the World Music category.

With three classical sitar recordings under her belt, she was in increasing demand as a touring artist, and over the next few years she established a growing international reputation as a classical sitarist, playing as many as 80 concerts per year. Spreading her wings, she turned to writing and acting, too: In 2002, she authored the book "Bapi: The Love of My Life," an intimate biographical portrait of her father; in 2004, she earned a Best Supporting Actress nomination from India's National Film Awards for her debut role in "Dance Like a Man," a feature film by Pamela Rooks.

By 2005, the time was right for a new phase. Previously, Anoushka had recorded and performed primarily as a soloist, interpreting the music of her father. While she continued to enjoy performing in the Indian classical realm and to tour with her father (as she has done ever since), on “Rise,” her fourth album, she composed, arranged and produced her own music, performing with a handpicked ensemble of brilliant musicians. “Rise” gave her another Grammy nomination in the Best Contemporary World Music category. In February 2006, she became the first Indian to play at the Grammy Awards.

Anoushka toured extensively again in the wake of the album, forming the Anoushka Shankar Project in order to present her new non-classical ensemble compositions to a live audience. This group consists of instrumentalists from various musical styles, with changing personnel; the music always draws deeply from India’s rich musical heritage, but the group serves also to maintain a clear distinction between this more experimental work of Anoushka’s and her classical Indian concerts.

In 2007, Anoushka collaborated with Karsh Kale, the Indian-American producer, composer and multi-instrumentalist, to create the album “Breathing Under Water,” which showed an even deeper grasp of the fusion of Eastern and Western music. This album features a rare guest appearance by her father, as well as contributions by her half-sister, Norah Jones. Critics were unanimous in their praise, and the album was launched in a concert in front of an audience of 14,000 at the 2007 Stern Grove Festival.

Today, from her twin homes of New Delhi and California, she continues to stretch out in different directions. She has made guest appearances on recordings by other artists, among them Sting, Lenny Kravitz and Thievery Corporation. Her developing work with Western classical musicians has included a duet at the 2007 Verbier Festival with acclaimed violinist Joshua Bell, who will appear at the Mondavi Center in 2010. In January 2009, Anoushka was the sitar soloist alongside the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra for the series of concerts premiering Ravi Shankar’s 3rd Concerto for Sitar and Orchestra. **Read more** at ravishankar.org and anoushakashankar.com.

- **Ravi and Anoushka Shankar**
- **Wed., May 13, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$60/50/30 regular; \$30/25/15 students, children**
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