

Kartik Seshadri, sitar

Arup Chattopadhyay, tabla

Mandeville Auditorium

April 25, 2009

8pm

Program:

The artist will announce the selections from the stage.

Biographies:

KARTIK SESHADRI is a world-renowned sitar virtuoso, composer, educator and the foremost disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar. Seshadri was hailed as a child prodigy in India by critics and prominent musicians when he began performing full-length solo recitals at the age of six. His initial training in music began with Shri Shankar Rao of All India Radio, who nurtured his precocious musical abilities. Seshadri had already embarked on an illustrious performing career when in 1965 he met the renowned maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, who was a profound musical influence in his life. In 1974, Seshadri became a disciple of the maestro and has since been receiving *talim* (knowledge) steeped in the distinctive and pure styles of the *Senia*, *Beenkar* and *Dhrupad* traditions.

Seshadri performs extensively as a soloist in major venues throughout India and abroad. His concerts in India frequently include prestigious festivals such as the Sangeeth Nataka Academy, Dover Lane Music Conference, Sangeeth Research Academy (ITC Music Festival), Gunidas Sangeeth Sammelan, Madras Music Academy, Indian Fine Arts Society, and Saptak, establishing him as a musician of national importance. In the United States and Canada, his recent solo engagements have included Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, World Music Institute, Asia Society, Vancouver Jazz Festival and Ravi Shankar's 75th Birthday Celebration. He has accompanied Ravi Shankar in major concert halls throughout the world, from India, Europe and the Middle East, to Japan, Mexico and the United States, including New York's Carnegie Hall. Seshadri's performances are noted for their expressive beauty, rich tonal sensibility and extraordinary rhythmic intricacy.

Most recently, Seshadri collaborated on the *Orion* project with the noted composer Philip Glass and the Brazilian group UAKTI with worldwide performances ranging from the Ravinia Festival in Highland Park and Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York to the Cervantino Festival in Mexico and Australia's Melbourne International Arts Festival.

Seshadri is also a distinguished composer and educator of Indian music. His composition *Quartet for a Raga* received its world premiere in Washington, DC under the auspices of the Contemporary Music Forum. He also teaches at the University of California, San Diego, where he heads one of the largest programs of Indian Classical music in the country. Seshadri's latest recording *Raga: Rasa- That which Colors the Mind* recently earned the world music's top ten list from the prestigious *Songlines* Magazine in London.

ARUP CHATTOPADHYAY is recognized today as one of the outstanding and most sought after tabla artists of the younger generation. As a premier disciple of the world renowned maestro Pandit Shankar Ghosh of the Farukabadh gharana (style) of tabla, Arup has established himself both as an accompanist and soloist.

Arup started his initial training in tabla at the age of six from his father, the eminent tabla player, Shri Pankaj Chatterjee and later came under the tutelage of Pandit Shankar Ghosh with whom he continues to train. An affiliated tabla artist with the All India Radio and Doordarshan Television, Arup records and performs frequently for the Indian broadcasting network.

He regularly accompanies some of the leading musicians of India such as Pandit Ravi Shankar, Rajan and Sajan Mishra, Pandit V.G. Jog, Ashish Khan, Manas Chakravarty, Arun Bhadhuri, Ajay Chakravarty, and Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. Arup has toured the U. K. representing highly acclaimed performances and demonstrations with Deepak Choudhury. Most recently, he has toured extensively with sitarist Kartik Seshadri in performances throughout the United States and Canada.

Arup also serves as a visiting guest lecturer of tabla at the University of California, San Diego.