

Anoushka Shankar - Sitar

Flamenco Gypsy Journey



"Most people are musicians simply because they play a certain instrument; when they play that instrument, the music appears. But Anoushka -she is the music; it just happens to be that she plays the Sitar. "

(Musical Times, 2009)

- Debut release on Deutsche Grammophon, Autumn 2011, produced by **Javier Limon**
- The album takes a musical journey from India to Spain, with influences from Flamenco and will be released in September 2011.
- November 2011 Tour with support of album release



Background



- Anoushka Shankar is an Indian Classical Sitar Player
- She has performed widely internationally, solo and with her father Ravi
- The album is "**Raga-Flamenco**". The tradition of Flamenco music initially came from India, and the album traces the routes of Flamenco across Europe, from Indian Classical music and the Rajasthani Gypsies.
- The music for the album draws deeply from the Indian classical tradition. Naturally however, it shows how Flamenco forms & styles fit naturally within the Indian *Raga* system. There are various similarities between the Indian and Flamenco musical styles beyond their surface differences, which the album & performance explores.
- Therefore, the style is not fusion; the two traditions sit alongside each other and intersperse with each other in a very natural way. This is both Indian music complemented by Flamenco, and vice versa.
- It is essentially an exploration of the relationship between the two distinct traditions, that share a history.



Concert programme info

Specifically, the concert programme features:

- **Seguiriya:** moves from a minor-to-major key, with the sitar completely replacing the guitar in one of the oldest and most traditional of the flamenco forms.
- **Granaina:** a guitar/sitar duet which will be performed by sitar and flamenco singer, perfectly true to stringent chord progressions of a granaina, yet with the sitar being played completely within a classical Indian raga.
- A couple of pieces are set to 12th/13th century Sufi poems which Anoushka had translated from Farsi into English and Javier Limon (producer) from English to Spanish. The songs are sung by a Spanish flamenco singer duetting with sitar and accompanied by the other instruments.
- Another song is set to new lyrics by Ravi Shankar and explores the folk music of India.
- The pieces range from highly percussive where the sitar is able to imitate flamenco guitar patterns in fast, strongly chordal figurations, or as in **Tangillos**, a dynamic flamenco-style song with sitar, vocals, Indian and flamenco percussion to a deeply tender lullaby with bansuri flute and sitar.
- The concert will also include Indian classical pieces in amongst raga-flamenco works, including the beautiful late-night raga which closes the album.

The touring party will be 11 people, including a Flamenco Dancer and 6 musicians :

- Sitar - Anoushka Shankar
- Indian percussion (mridangam, ghatam) – Pirashanna Thevarajah
- Flamenco percussion (cajon) – Piraña Israel Suarez (tbc)
- Indian vocals/flute – tba
- Flamenco singer – Sandra Carrasco
- Indian shennai – Sanjeev Shankar