

Sitarist Kartik Seshadri to perform April 19 at UCSD

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SITARIST KARTIK SESHADRI TO PERFORM APRIL 19 AT UCSD

Sitarist Kartik Seshadri, whose music is described by The Statesman of New Delhi as "unflinching and vividly expressive," will perform at 8 p.m. April 19 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Considered one of the finest representatives of Indian classical music today, Seshadri is a disciple of virtuoso sitarist Ravi Shankar, a Regents' Professor at UCSD, who praises Seshadri as a "brilliant and outstanding musician."

Seshadri's April 19 performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office and the Center for World Music. The sitarist will be accompanied on tabla by Arup Chatterjee.

Seshadri's instrument of choice, the sitar, is the most popular stringed instrument of India. The seven-stringed, lute-like instrument has existed in its present form for 700 years. Much of the classical repertoire of India, consisting of thousands of orally preserved melodic patterns called ragas, each of which is defined by a set of musical rules, can be performed on it.

Aesthetically, a raga is far more than the sum of its rules. As Ravi Shankar says: "A raga is the projection of the artist's inner spirit: a manifestation of his most profound feelings and sensibilities. The musician must breathe life into each raga as he unfolds and expands it so that each note shimmers and pulsates with life and the raga is revealed vibrant, incandescent with beauty."

The measure of a player's mastery is thus his ability to improvise within the rules.

The Hindu of Madras, India, praises Seshadri's "amazing grasp of raga forms, portrayed with felicity and grace," and The Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad, writes: "When he played this raga the audience was almost on the verge of tearful acknowledgement of Kartik's genius."

The India Journal of Los Angeles calls Seshadri's sitar performances "scintillating."

Seshadri's talent on the sitar was nurtured in early childhood and he played his first major recital at age six. He became a disciple of Ravi Shankar in 1974, and since then has been receiving rigorous training in Senia and Dhrupad, two distinctive northern Indian performing traditions.

Seshadri performs extensively in India and throughout the world. In India he has participated in solo concerts in cities such as New Delhi, Bombay, Baroda, Bangalore, Madras, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad, and in festivals including those of the Sangeeth Nataka Academy, the Indian Fine Arts Society and the Madras Music Academy. He has performed in solo concerts in various cities in the United States and in major music festivals including the

First International Music Festival sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, the Festival of Indian Music, and the year-long Festival of India.

Since 1992, Seshadri has accompanied Ravi Shankar in major concert halls of the world, including those in India, Europe, the Middle East, Japan, Mexico, Canada and the United States.

Seshadri is also a composer and educator of Indian music. His composition, Quartet for a Raga, had its world premiere in Washington, D.C., by the Contemporary Music Forum. He lectures and teaches sitar in the Music Department at UCSD and is the recipient of an artist's fellowship from the California Arts Council.

Of a performance at Indiana University, the Bloomington Herald-Times writes: "Here was ageless music out of a powerful tradition, yet individualized by one performer's artistry. Here was music which all at once could open the ears, close the eyes, fill the mind, and numb the senses...One need not understand the fine points. One need not distinguish the intricate distinctions revealed from raga to raga. It's music one hears. It's a journey one takes."

Tickets for Kartik Seshadri's April 19 performance are \$16 general admission, \$14 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$12 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information, call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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