

Shri Ravi Shankar

One of the top ranking instrumentalists of our country, Shri Ravi Shankar was born in Varanasi in 1920. Belonging to a well known family of artists music came to him effortlessly. At the early age of ten, he joined the dance troupe of his celebrated elder brother, Shri Uday Shankar. He has had the good fortune of learning the sitar, in which he excels, under the inspiring guidance of the great Ustad Alauddin Khan. This instrument has provided him with all the dramatic expressiveness that his ardent nature seeks.

Shri Ravi Shankar has toured extensively abroad thereby acting as his country's ambassador in music. The growing appreciation of our music in the West is in no small measure due to his exquisite performances before music lovers in Western countries.

As a musical composer he is held in high esteem and his compositions have enriched well known Indian films, such as "Pather Panchali" and "Kabuliwala".

Shri Ravi Shankar's devotion to his art and his achievement in the field have endeared him to his countrymen.

I present him, Sir, to you for bestowing upon him the Akademi Award for Hindustani instrumental music.