

For Immediate Release

**THE GRAMMY MUSEUM® DEBUTS
*RAVI SHANKAR: A LIFE IN MUSIC***

***New Exhibit Spotlighting the Influential Career of the Sitar
Virtuoso and Beatles Inspiration to Open April 29***

Special Evening Program, Ravi Shankar: Celebrating A Life In Music, to Be Held April 28

LOS ANGELES (April 7, 2015) — On what would have been renowned sitar player and Beatles inspiration Ravi Shankar's 95th birthday, the GRAMMY Museum is pleased to announce it will debut its latest exhibit, *Ravi Shankar: A Life In Music*, on Wednesday, April 29, 2015. The exhibit will mark the first in the United States to celebrate India's most esteemed musician.

Through a collection of sitars, artifacts and rare photographs from the Shankar family, the exhibit will provide visitors with a one-of-a-kind glimpse into the GRAMMY-winning world music icon's early life, the roots of his musicality and his vast impact on Western music.

"Ravi Shankar is as synonymous to world music as Elvis Presley is to rock and roll," said Bob Santelli, Executive Director of the GRAMMY Museum. "Through his decades of world concert performances and the relationships he built with Western artists such as Yehudi Menuhin, Philip Glass, John Coltrane, and The Beatles, Shankar was instrumental in introducing the world to Indian music, and we are excited to introduce our visitors to the influential life of Ravi Shankar."

On display on the Museum's fourth floor, the exhibit will feature:

- A collection of sitars played by Shankar, including one from the 1930s
- Shankar's GRAMMY Awards, including the 1972 Album Of The Year trophy for *The Concert For Bangladesh*
- Performance attire, including outfits worn at Woodstock in 1969 and the Concert for Bangladesh
- The performance box from Shankar's final concert in 2012
- Rare photographs from the Shankar family collection
- Handwritten letters and music ideas
- And more

"The upcoming Ravi Shankar exhibition will be a privileged glimpse into a life dedicated to, and consumed by, Indian classical music, not only played on sitar, but through all forms of instruments, voice and dance," said Olivia Harrison, wife of the late Beatles member George Harrison, who considered Shankar to be the "Godfather of World Music." "His orchestral compositions will be a revelation to those who are only familiar with his solo music. Ravi Shankar's worldwide travels and friendships will also add to the multifaceted picture of his colorful life and appreciation of Western culture and knowledge of jazz, classical and popular music."

"Ravi was one of a kind. He meant so much to Eastern and Western music and what they could accomplish together," said Sukanya Shankar, Ravi Shankar's widow. "He influenced musicians and

touched the lives of millions all over the world not only with his incredible virtuosity, but with his ability to be so humble in the midst of such adoration. I am deeply touched by the efforts the GRAMMY Museum is making to showcase his life story for the world to see."

One day before the launch, on April 28, the Museum will host Ravi Shankar: Celebrating A Life In Music. The evening will feature the screening of a short documentary film, followed by a special performance from a trio comprised of Barry Phillips on cello, Lakshay Mohan Gupta on sitar and Aayush Mohan Gupta on sarod.

Members of the media are invited to attend a media preview event on Tuesday, April 28 from 4–6 p.m. Please contact Crystal Larsen at clarsen@grammymuseum.org to RSVP. Media must RSVP in advance to attend.

The GRAMMY Museum is located at 800 West Olympic Boulevard, Suite A245, Los Angeles, CA 90015. With an entrance off of Figueroa Street, the Museum resides within the L.A. LIVE district, at the intersection of Olympic Boulevard and Figueroa Street in downtown Los Angeles.

About Ravi Shankar

A legendary sitarist, composer, teacher, and writer, Ravi Shankar was India's most esteemed musical ambassador and a singular phenomenon whose artistry crossed all cultural and musical boundaries. He was recognized throughout the world for his pioneering work in bringing Indian music to the West. The youngest son of a Bengali family, Shankar was born in 1920 in Varanasi (also known as Benares), the holiest of Indian cities. At age 10 he accompanied his elder brother, Uday Shankar, and his dance troupe to Paris where he attended school and absorbed the music traditions of the West. After meeting guru and multi-instrumentalist Allauddin Khan at a music conference in 1934, Shankar moved to Maihar, India, in 1938 where he studied sitar under Khan. In 1946 Shankar went on to become music director of the New Delhi radio station All India Radio, a position he held until 1956. During his time at All India Radio, Shankar composed pieces for orchestra, mixing sitar and other Indian instruments with classical Western instrumentation. During this time he began performing and writing music with violinist Yehudi Menuhin. Shankar's relationship with The Beatles began in the '60s, when he began giving sitar lessons to George Harrison, who later played the instrument on The Beatles' "Norwegian Wood." Several years later in 1971 Shankar partnered with Harrison to produce the Concert for Bangladesh, which took place at Madison Square Garden in 1972 and raised funds for UNICEF. The live recording of the concert ultimately won the GRAMMY for Album Of The Year. Shankar received five GRAMMY Awards throughout his career and a Recording Academy Lifetime Achievement Award, and performed at legendary U.S. music festivals including Woodstock and the Monterey Pop Festival. Together with composer Philip Glass and several other composers, Shankar co-composed "Orion," which opened the 2004 Cultural Olympiad in Greece. Shankar passed away on Dec. 11, 2012, in San Diego, Calif., at the age of 92.

About The GRAMMY Museum®

Paying tribute to music's rich cultural history, this one-of-a-kind, 21st-century Museum explores and celebrates the enduring legacies of all forms of music, the creative process, the art and technology of the recording process, and the history of the premier recognition of excellence in recorded music — the GRAMMY Award. The GRAMMY Museum features 30,000 square feet of interactive and multimedia exhibits located within L.A. LIVE, the downtown Los Angeles sports, entertainment and residential district. Through thought-provoking and dynamic public and educational programs and exhibits, guests will experience music from a never-before-seen insider perspective that only The GRAMMY Museum can deliver.

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