



Ravi Shankar appeared at Burton auditorium Monday night and overwhelmed the crowd with a superb three-hour concert of Indian music on sitar and tabla.

Shankar weaves tapestry of Indian music at Burton

Ravi Shankar walked into Burton Monday night with tabla player Alla Rakha and tamboura player Nodu Mullick and swept the audience into a three-hour tableau of ragas, melodic hymns and complicated cycles.

Shankar — known to Western followers of pop music through his performances at the 1967 Monterey festival, Woodstock and the Madison Square Garden Bangladesh benefit concert — wove intricate tapestries of alternatively delicate and strident notes, drawing the audience into a spell of intense concentration.

At times, the sitar whined and wailed sad South Indian melodies; at others, it screamed with a shrill voice and dropped suddenly to vibrating bass tones; and at others, it served as banjo to swift and exhilarating rock rhythms.

Rakha matched Shankar with a flawless performance on the tablas, responding to a mourning note with a 10 beat progression which would stop, wait, hesitate and launch into a lightning-fast extension of the original beat.

After the intermission, for the benefit of new listeners, Shankar spat out curt syllables while Rakha matched the

rhythm and intonation on his tablas, accompanying his performance with chattering vocals which would put a mouth percussionist to shame.

The performers laughed, shook and swayed throughout the concert, and the feeling of frenzied, warm enjoyment spread to the crowd.

At the close, the Burton audience, hypnotized by the web of sound, rose to applaud three artists who had created an intoxicating evening.

The next attraction in the performing arts series is a special programme of Theatre Dance: East and West, Tuesday night (Nov. 6) at 8:30 in Burton auditorium, with dancers Al Huang and Suzanne Pierce.

Huang, an instructor in Oriental theatre at York, arrived in the United States in 1955, performed with Sammy Davis, Jr. and Lotte Goslar, and danced a featured role in the film, Flower Drum Song.

Tickets are \$3.50 for students, \$5.50 for staff and faculty, and \$7 for the general public.

Master sitarist demonstrates his art for York audience

By MICHAEL HOLLETT

There are two Ravi Shankars. "First there is the Ravi Shankar who plays the traditional classical music of India," said Shankar on Monday, speaking to a packed eighth floor faculty lounge.

"Then there is the less important Shankar who writes the experimental music for ballet and orchestras."

The renowned sitarist was giving a talk-demonstration on Indian music and on himself, prior to his evening concert at Burton Auditorium.

As a youth, Shankar toyed with many instruments. A guru under whom he wanted to study told him that he was like a butterfly, fluttering from instrument to instrument without becoming a master of any. If you become good on one instrument, said the guru, the rest will come easily.

Shankar consequently sold all his possessions except for a few clothes, and went to study with his guru, devoting the next 15 years of his life to mastering sitar.

Shankar pointed out that Harrison did not discover him — Shankar was playing to full houses in Carnegie Hall in the 50s.

Harrison did in fact broaden his audience, but with some negative results. Indian music became a fad, and attracted many insincere listeners. Audiences felt they had to be drunk or stoned for Shankar's concerts, and this annoyed him.

Serious listeners of his music, said Shankar, do not need these stimulants, and he asks his audiences not to smoke at his concerts out of respect for the music.

He explained that much of the music he plays — some written as far back as 1700 — has religious and classical roots, and is taken very seriously by the musicians.

At Monday's session, Shankar explained some of the principles of Indian music, Alla Rakha played an Indian drum called the tabla, and he, Shankar and the audience took part in Indian prayer exercises.

The Wind

The moon gives in blood
Yet I bleed darkness and the wind bursts in death
As I shiver beauty.
Softly we see hope as the bird bursts in silence.
The grass is in light
Forever they bleed light
As the sun grieves in hope
The wind gives in happiness
Tenderly you kiss light
As the moon loves in silence.

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