

Ravi Shankar - The Living Room Sessions Part 1 (2012)

Written by bluesever

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*01 – Session 1 Raga Malgunji 02 – Session 2 Raga Khamaj 03 – Session 3 Raga Kedara
04 – Session 4 Raga Satyajit* Ravi Shankar - Sitar Tanmoy Bose - Tabla

In October 2011, at the age of 91, Ravi Shankar invited his long-time tabla accompanist, Tanmoy Bose, to his home in Encinitas, California for an informal recording session. Over four days in Shankar's living room, they recorded seven different ragas. The resulting music is pure Shankar, combining his deep musical experience and brilliant technique with the passion he brings to live performance. The first of two releases, *The Living Room Sessions Part 1*, consists of four tracks that span a wide range of Indian classical styles - from the opening Raga Malgunji, a meditative raga reflecting on the distance between the human and the supreme; to the lighter, lyrical Raga Khamaj and Raga Kedara; and closing with Raga Satyajit, a spontaneous raga dedicated to the late director and friend of Shankar, Satyajit Ray, that is both melodic and rhythmic. The seamless musical dialog between Shankar and Bose creates a uniquely stirring listening experience. Both intimate and masterly, *The Living Room Sessions Part 1* is an invitation into the home and musical genius of Ravi Shankar. ---
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"This is rather a different recording when, at almost 92 years, I was fooling around at home at Encinitas, California with my sitar, playing pieces with Tanmoy Bose on tabla. We recorded seven ragas in four days and had a lot of fun. This disc has four of those ragas - the first one, Raga Malgunji has both a slow Vilambit gat and a display in Jhaptal of ten beats in complicated, rhythmic patterns and finishes that conveys the sadness of being unable to merge with the Supreme. The second and third ragas, Raga Khamaj and Raga Kedara are in the romantic Thumri style. The final number is a spontaneous, melodic pattern which came to my mind, when

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I was told about the death of my dear friend Satyajit Ray. For me, the tracks illustrate the depths and beauty of Indian classical music, which can invoke a range of emotional intensity through energetic and complicated rhythmic patterns. I hope you enjoy listening to this as much as I did when I recorded it!" -- Ravi Shankar

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