

# FACE THE MUSIC

A woman with long, dark, curly hair is seated, playing a sitar. She is wearing a maroon sari with gold floral patterns. The sitar is dark with a silver-colored fretboard and a decorative headstock. The background is a soft, out-of-focus purple and blue.

SITAR STAR  
ANOUSHKA  
SHANKAR  
BRINGS HER  
CONTEMPORARY  
STYLE AND  
MESMERISING  
MUSIC TO  
DUBAI OPERA





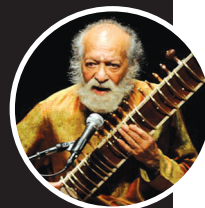


# Many strings to her bow

Anoushka Shankar has some serious (and surprising) famous connections

## RAVI SHANKAR

Known as the 'godfather of world music', Anoushka's father introduced the West to classical Indian music and inspired the '60s psychedelic sound of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and the '90s rock of Kula Shaker.



## NORAH JONES

The Come Away With Me singer-songwriter is Anoushka's half sister. They didn't actually meet until the sitar player was 16, but have since become close and they started working together in the studio in 2013.



## GEORGE HARRISON

Known to Anoushka as 'Uncle George', the musician was good friends with and a student of her father. Harrison collaborated with Ravi Shankar often and produced his 1997 album Chants Of India – Anoushka was one of the composers on the album too.



## JOE WRIGHT

Anoushka married the British director, best known for Atonement and Pride And Prejudice, in 2010. They live in London with their two sons.



## MIA

The Paper Planes rapper recently collaborated with Anoushka on the song Jump In (Cross The Line), which features on the sitar queen's latest album Land Of Gold.



**W**hen Anoushka Shankar was just 13 years old she was performing to packed-out crowds in New Delhi. If that wasn't nerve-racking enough, she was on stage with her father Ravi Shankar, the most famous sitar player of the 20th century – Grammy winner, mentor to The Beatles' George Harrison and credited with single-handedly bringing traditional Indian music to the West.

It sounds terrifying, but Anoushka has shouldered the pressure that comes with having an award-winning musician for a father and is now, two decades later, recognised as a sitar-playing superstar in her own right.

In fact, she received her first of five Grammy nominations by the time she was 20, becoming the first Indian female nominee in the world music category. The star also has more than ten albums to her name, is one of the few female composers taught in the UK A-Level music syllabus and recently rocked the stage at Glastonbury.

Like her father she's known for making the sitar look easy – and with up to 21 strings on one instrument, that's quite a feat. She's also all about

pushing the classical instrument beyond its limitations with her own modern spin. Her latest album *Land Of Gold*, for example, features the voice of Alev Lenz, the German-Turkish singer-songwriter, and at the Glastonbury gig her band included everything from a bansuri (a traditional South Asian flute) to an electronic drum kit.

Even without lyrics, her music is always personal. Her song *Inside Me* was about her unborn son, she made *Traces Of You* with Norah Jones following the death of her father in 2012, and her new album *Land Of Gold* was inspired by the current refugee crisis.

Anoushka was brought up across three continents, in California, India and London. She now lives in the UK and has performed in some of the finest venues in the world – the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall and Alte Oper Frankfurt. This month she'll be putting the acoustics at Dubai Opera to the test for what is bound to be a very special evening.

### October 15

a *Dubai Opera District, Downtown Dubai, Dubai, 7pm, Dhs250. Tel: (04) 4408888. Metro: Burj Khalifa/ Dubai Mall. [dubaiopera.com](http://dubaiopera.com)*