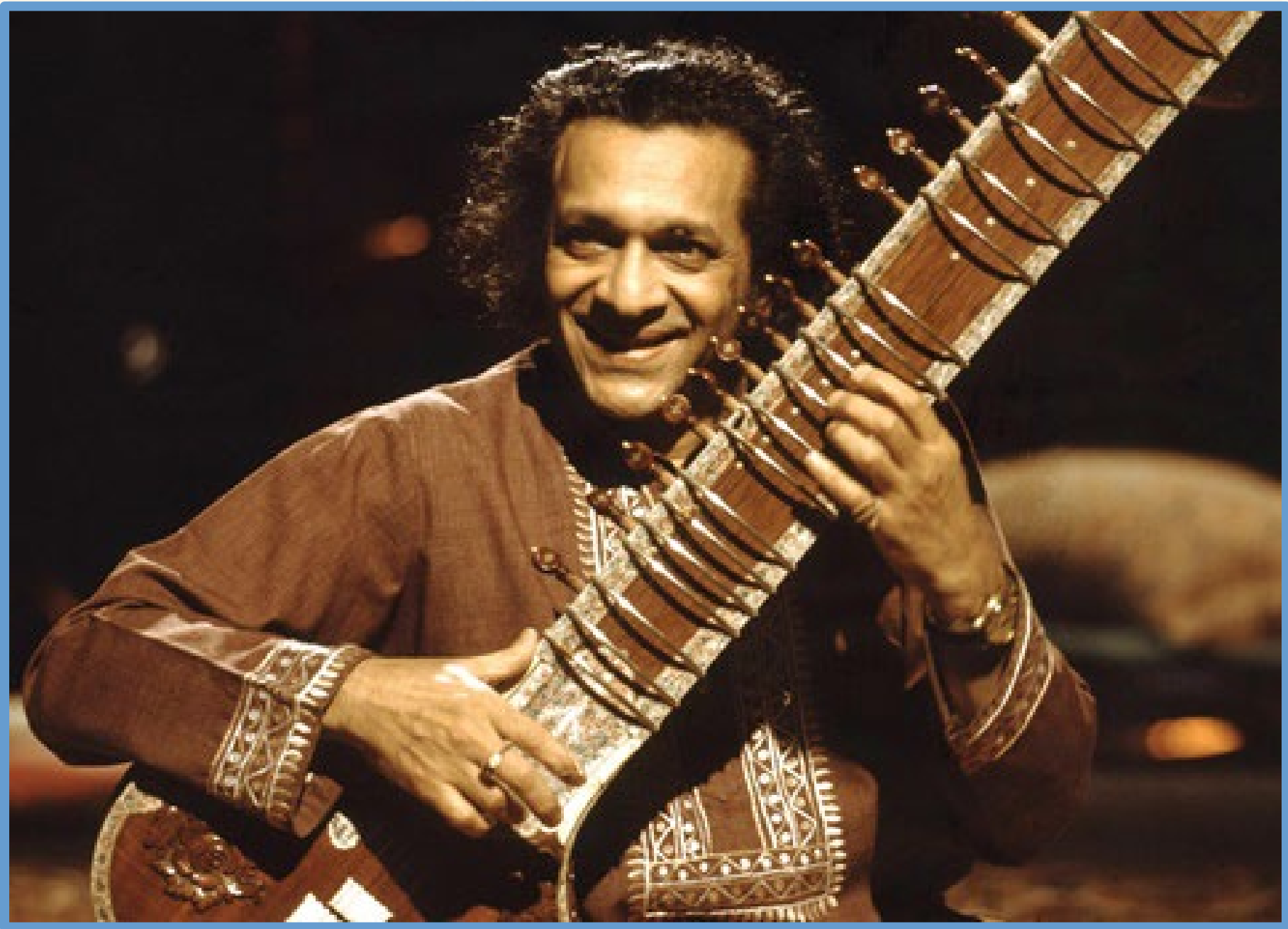




Ravi Shankar

Composer of the Week





Born in Benares, India, in 1920



Died in San Diego, U.S.A., in
2012



Composer and player of the **Sitar**

Founder of the National Orchestra of India

Ravi Shankar brought Indian music to the rest of the world

What is a **sitar**?

It is an Indian traditional stringed instrument.

It is long necked with moveable frets.

It is played by plucking the strings with a plectrum.

It has six or seven strings with another set of twelve running underneath which vibrate with the top set.



Traditional Indian Music consists of **Ragas**, **Tals** and **Drones**.

Ragas are traditional patterns of notes – the tunes.

Tals are traditional patterns of time – the rhythm.

Drones are usually simple – one or two notes played together as an accompaniment to the Raga – the harmony.



When he was young Ravi studied traditional music and dance. He toured India and Europe as a dancer with his brother's dance group.

When he was 18 he gave up dancing and concentrated on playing the **sitar**.

He gave concerts all over the world and made Indian traditional music famous.

He became friends and played concerts with the famous classical **violinist Yehudi Menuhin**.

Can you tell when the **violin** and when the **sitar** are playing?



We have traditional Indian Instruments in school.

Do you know what they are called?



Tabla

Another famous British musician studied with Ravi, he was called **George Harrison** and he was a member of a very famous pop group called **The Beatles**.

Indian music began to influence their music too.



Two of Ravi's children also became famous musicians.

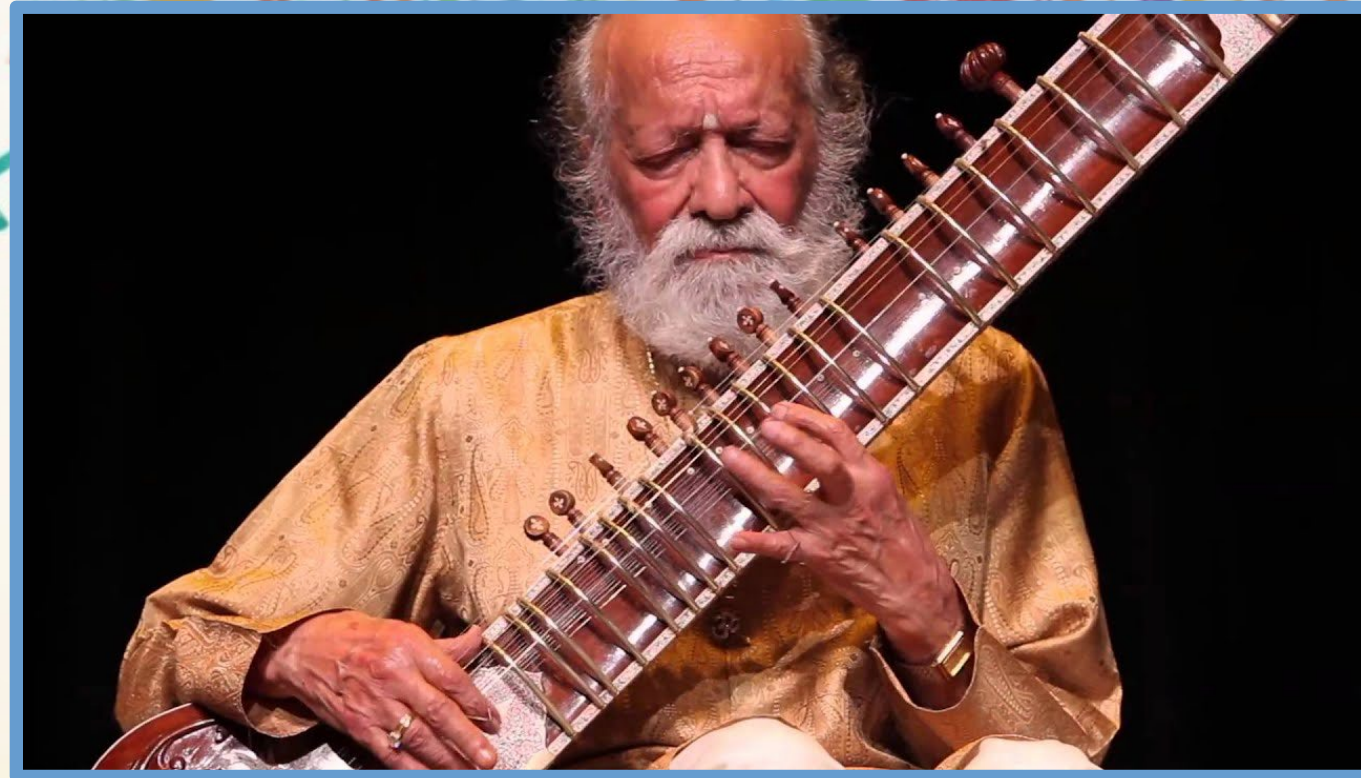
Anoushka Shankar is also a famous sitar player.



Norah Jones is a famous jazz, pop and country music singer.



Ravi Shankar's most famous composition is called **Raga-Mala (Garland of Rags)**. It was first performed in 1981.





Pop changes week to week, month to month. But great music is like literature.

— *Ravi Shankar* —

AZ QUOTES