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Master instrumentalist of the santoor Pandit Shivkumar Sharma brings his astonishing artistry to Melbourne Recital Centre.

Wednesday 25 January 2012: Devotees of **Pandit Shivkumar Sharma** will talk endlessly about his album *Call of The Valley* which he recorded in 1967. The best-selling Hindustani classical music album, which featured flutist Hariprasad Chaurasia, was instrumental in bringing Indian music to Western ears. George Harrison, Paul McCartney, David Crosby, and Bob Dylan became huge fans of the album and its influence on their music and artistry is evident.

Call of the Valley is still considered a classic and a milestone in world music. Music magazine *Allmusic* advises: "If new-comers to music buy only one Indian classical recording, it should be **Call of the Valley.**" It is listed in the book *1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die* by Robert Dimery and Michael Lydon.

Shivkumar is credited with making the santoor (a Kashmiri instrument similar to a hammered dulcimer) a popular classical instrument but it was his father who decided that the young Shivkumar would play Indian classical music on the santoor, which was previously regarded as being suited only to folk music. Shivkumar started learning the santoor at age 13 and gave his first public concert at 17, finally going on to silence what Shivkumar calls "the die-hard connoisseurs of the music, musicologists and purists" who were sceptical about the santoor's use in classical music.

Hypnotic, mystical and beautiful, Shivkumar Sharma creates music that transcends time and cultural traditions, producing a complex web of sounds from this ancient instrument. Shivkumar's self-imposed high standards of performance and stage-craft mean that every concert and recording is perfect.

Shivkumar is joined by tabla virtuoso Yogesh Samsi and Takahiro Arai on tanpuri (drone) for this special one-off concert.

This performance is presented with support from the Government of Victoria, Arts Victoria and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

"He coaxed from the 100-string santoor the most beguiling melodies, building to virtuosic ecstasy."
The West Australian

"Astonishing artistry" *The Age*

EVENT DETAILS

Wednesday 21 March 2012, 7.30pm
Melbourne Recital Centre, Elisabeth Murdoch Hall
Tickets - \$50 (\$40 concession)

Book at melbournerecital.com.au or call the Box Office on 03 9699 3333.

For interviews and further information: Di Rolle 0419 001 068 / di@dirolle.com