

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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One of the greatest living masters of one of the world's oldest arts, Indian classical music, will give his first public concerts in the Western World on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, April 19 and 20, at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, in the first of a series of programs sponsored by the Museum's Junior Council on "The Living Arts of India." Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, a master of the sarod, an ancient stringed instrument with a gourd type sound box and 19 steel strings, will be accompanied by Chatur Lal, tabla player or drummer, and Shirish Gor, tamboura player.

At the Tuesday performance Mr. Khan will be introduced by Yehudi Menuhin, violinist, and at the Wednesday concert by Peggy Glanville-Hicks, critic and composer. Although the first performance is sold out, tickets are available for Wednesday evening, April 20. The concerts will be held in the Museum Auditorium at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$2.25 for Museum members and students; \$3.00 for non-members.

Indian music, remarkable for its three-thousand year unbroken tradition, is characterized by a combination of great strictness and great variety. There is no written notation in the western sense, but within a well-defined framework of pitch and beat, the performer becomes the composer and each concert may sound totally different according to the mood and feeling of the performer. In the importance of improvisation and extemporaneous quality, Indian music is somewhat like our Jam Sessions.

Ali Akbar Khan, born in Bengal in 1922, has been studying music since the age of five. His father was court musician of the Maihar State and studied with a descendant of the great Tansen musician who created the present day technique of Indian music about the 13th century. Mr. Khan first studied vocal music, a key element in Indian music and then the tabla or drums before beginning his study of the sarod. Mr. Lal was born in 1927 in Northern India and also comes of a musical family. He has studied drums since he was ten years old.

Mr. Khan and Mr. Lal with six other Indian artists who will perform later, were brought to this country by the Museum's Junior Council and the Ford Foundation's TV workshop. They all appeared on the final Omnibus program of this season on April 10. "The Living Arts of India" series of evenings is being sponsored by the Junior Council in connection with a major exhibition, TEXTILES AND ORNAMENTAL ARTS OF INDIA, which has just opened at the Museum.