

Sunday, March 23, 2014, 7pm
Zellerbach Hall

Zakir Hussain

& Masters of Percussion

with

Zakir Hussain	<i>tabla</i>
Selvaganesh Vinayakram	<i>kanjira & ghatam</i>
Steve Smith	<i>Western drums</i>
Niladri Kumar	<i>sitar</i>
Dilshad Khan	<i>sarangi</i>
Deepak Bhatt	<i>dhol</i>
Vijay Chavan	<i>dholki</i>

and special guest

Antonia Minnecola *Kathak dancer*

PROGRAM

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage. There will be one intermission.

Cal Performances' 2013-2014 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.



Susanna Milhman

ZAKIR HUSSAIN (*tabla*) is today appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon. A classical *tabla* virtuoso of the highest order, his consistently brilliant and exciting performances have not only established him as a national treasure in his own country, India, but as one of the world's most esteemed and influential musicians, renowned for his genre-defying collaborations. His playing is marked by uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity, founded in formidable knowledge and study. The favorite accompanist for many of India's greatest classical musicians and dancers, he has not let his genius rest there.

Widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement, Mr. Hussain has engaged in many unique and historic collaborations, including Shakti, which he founded with John McLaughlin and L. Shankar, Remember Shakti, the Diga Rhythm Band, Making Music, Planet Drum with Mickey Hart, *Tabla Beat Science*, *Sangam* with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland, and recordings and performances with artists as diverse as George Harrison, Yo-Yo Ma, Joe Henderson, Van Morrison, Airto Moreira, Pharoah Sanders, Billy Cobham, Mark Morris, Rennie Harris, and the Kodo drummers. His 2009 recording with frequent collaborators and trio-mates Béla Fleck and Edgar Meyer, *The Melody of Rhythm*, was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2010.

The foremost disciple of his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, Mr. Hussain was a child prodigy who began his professional career at the age of twelve and had toured internationally with great success by the age of 18. He has been the recipient of many awards, grants and honors, including Padma Bhushan (2002), Padma Shri (1988), the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1991), Kalidas Samman (2006), the 1999 National Heritage Fellowship Award, the Bay Area Isadora Duncan Award (1998–1999), and Grammy Awards in 1991 and 2009 for Best World Music Album for *Planet Drum* and *Global Drum Project*, both collaborations with Mickey Hart. His music and extraordinary contribution to the music world were honored in April 2009, with four widely heralded and sold-out concerts in Carnegie Hall's "Perspectives" series. Also in 2009, Mr. Hussain was named a Member in the Order of Arts and Letters by France's Ministry of Culture and Communication. Most recently, the National Symphony Orchestra with Christoph Eschenbach commissioned and premiered Mr. Hussain's Concerto for Four Soloists at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, which was met with great acclaim.

Masters of Percussion, an outgrowth of Mr. Hussain's memorable tours with his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, has enjoyed successful tours in the West since 1996. Joining the 2014 tour are Selvaganesh Vinayakram (*kanjira* and *ghatam*), Steve Smith (Western drums), Niladri Kumar (*sitar*), Dilshad Khan (*sarangi*), Deepak Bhatt (*dhol*), Vijay Chavan (*dholki*), and distinguished Kathak dancer Antonia Minnecola.

Selvaganesh Vinyakaram is the world's premier performer on the *kanjira*, the South Indian frame drum. The son of Mr. Hussain's Planet Drum and Shakti partner T. H. "Vikku" Vinayakram, he is also a veteran of Remember Shakti with John McLaughlin. His solo album *Soukha* (2006) featured all of the members of Remember Shakti as well as his father and Masters of Percussion *sitarist* Niladri Kumar. Mr. Vinyakaram is also a major force in Tamil film making circles, composing songs in a beguiling mixture of genres, from folk to hip-hop to romantic ballads, and backed by a wide array of players from all over the world.

Steve Smith is the first non-Indian drummer to be included in a Masters of Percussion tour. A Berklee College alumnus, he toured with the jazz violinist Jean-Luc Ponty and the rocker Ronnie Montrose before joining the mega-hit American band Journey for the peak years of its success. American music fans voted him the world's No. 1 All-Around Drummer at *Modern Drummer* magazine for five years running. In recent years, he has been among the most in-demand session players around, working with musicians from pop (Mariah Carey, Andrea Bocelli, Bryan Adams) to jazz (Ahmad Jamal, Mike Stern, Kai Eckhardt). Mr. Smith also tours with his jazz/world music group Steve Smith & Vital Information, currently celebrating its 30-year anniversary. He joined Zakir Hussain during the latter's 2013 residency at the inauguration of the SFJAZZ Center. For more information, visit www.vitalinformation.com.

Niladri Kumar is on the cutting edge of the *sitar*, playing at the highest level in both classical and fusion realms. He began playing at age four and first performed in public at six, winning the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar award in 2007. He recorded with John McLaughlin on the album *Floating Point*, and went on to create the "zitar," an electrified fusion of *sitar* and guitar. At the same time, his profound abilities as a classical *sitarist* led to his winning the M. N. Mathur Award in the 51st Maharana Kumbha Sangeet Samorah in 2013. This is his second Masters of Percussion tour.

Dilshad Khan took up the *sarangi* at the age of six under the tutelage of his grandfather, Ustad Gulab Khansahib, one of the greatest *sarangi* players of his era, and his father, Ustad Nasir Khansahib, also a great *sitar* player. He later studied extensively with his uncle, Padma Bhushan Sultan Khansahib. Mr. Khan is part of the ninth generation of performers in the Sikar Gharana of Rajasthan, India. In addition to performing with a wide array of fellow musicians, Mr. Khan is a famous name in the Bollywood film industry, where he has played on more than 500 movies, including the hits *Devdas*, *Namaste London*, and *Tere Naam*.

Deepak Bhatt is a superb young player of the *dhol*, a double-headed drum. A student of

Taufiq Quereshi in the classical and Carnatic genres, he plays in a number of different ensembles playing music from classical to fusion to Bollywood. He has performed with Taufiq Quereshi, Trilok Gurtu, Niladri Kumar, and Selvaganesh, among others, and was part of Mr. Hussain's 2009 Grammy-winning CD, *Global Drum Project*.

Vijay Chavan was born to a family with a strong tradition of Indian folk drumming and singing, and is one of the leading exponents of the *dholki*, the premier folk instrument of Maharashtra. He is a well known performer in the Hindi film industry, working with Laxmikant Pyarelal, Anand Millind, Uttam Singh, and Pritam, as well as the great Tamil film music composer Ilayaraja. Mr. Chavan has performed with Trilok Gurtu, George Brooks, Giovanni Hidalgo, and Terry Bozzio of Frank Zappa fame.

Antonia Minnecola is one of few American artists recognized as a serious exponent of Kathak, the dynamic classical dance style of North India. As a choreographer, she employs Kathak to present contemporary works, often collaborating with artists of different genres, including musicians Zakir Hussain, Aashish Khan, Terry Riley, Mickey Hart and Taufiq Qureshi, singer Molly Holm, poet Michael McClure, and hip-hop artist Rennie Harris. Twice a recipient of the Marin Arts Council Individual Artist Grant for Choreography, Ms. Minnecola is the disciple of Sitara Devi, widely considered the greatest female Kathak dancer of our time, with whom she has studied under the auspices of two Smithsonian Institution Fellowships. Ms. Minnecola has appeared in many tours and festivals including the Bay Area's Other Minds Festival, the San Francisco Jazz Festival, the Asian-Pacific Performing Arts Festival, the Auckland Festival, and at Jacob's Pillow. As a solo Kathak artist, she is often accompanied by her husband, *tabla* virtuoso Zakir Hussain, and has also appeared with his ensembles, Masters of Percussion and the Rhythm Experience. She has assisted Mr. Hussain in his guest professor tenures at Princeton and Stanford universities, in several of his Meet the Composer residencies, and at Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. Most recently, she has been teaching Kathak for LINES Ballet's B.F.A. Program in Dance at Dominican University.