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World Music Series, Zakir Hussain with Rahul Sharma, April 26, 2017

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WORLD MUSIC SERIES

Zakir Hussain
with Rahul Sharma
The pre-eminent classical tabla virtuoso of our time, Zakir Hussain, is appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon. A national treasure in his native India, he is one of the world’s most esteemed and influential musicians, renowned for his genre-defying collaborations.

Widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement, Hussain's contribution has been unique, with many historic and groundbreaking collaborations, including Shakti, Remember Shakti, Masters of Percussion, the Diga Rhythm Band, Planet Drum, Tabla Beat Science, Sangam with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland, in trio with Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer and, most recently, with Herbie Hancock. The foremost disciple of his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, Hussain was a child prodigy who began his professional career at the age of 12, touring internationally with great success by the age of 18.

As a composer, he has scored music for numerous feature films, major events and productions. He has composed two concertos, and his third, the first-ever concerto for tabla and orchestra, was premiered in India in September 2015, in Europe and the U.K. in 2016 and will be performed in the U.S. in April 2017 by the National Symphony Orchestra at The Kennedy Center. A Grammy award winner, he is the recipient of many awards and honors, including Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India; National Heritage Fellowship; and Officier in France’s Order of Arts and Letters. In 2015, he was voted “Best Percussionist” by both the DownBeat Critics’ Poll and Modern Drummer’s Reader’s Poll.

As an educator, he conducts many workshops and lectures each year, has been in residence at Princeton University and Stanford University and, in 2015, was appointed Regents Lecturer at University of California, Berkeley. He is the founder and president of Moment Records, an independent record label presenting rare live concert recordings of Indian classical music and world music. Hussain was resident artistic director at SFJazz from 2013 until 2016.

Rahul Sharma learned music and the santoor from his father, Guru Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, who is a music legend in India and throughout the world. Sharma’s father has been instrumental in bringing this little-known instrument from the valleys of Kashmir and introducing it to the Indian classical music world. Today, Sharma performs worldwide at such prestigious venues as WOMAD, Edinburgh Festival, the Esplanade in Singapore and the Royal Festival Hall in London. He is proud and honored to have continued the tradition of bringing the santoor on a journey from folk to classical and beyond, including even new age.

Sharma has written music for several Bollywood films with many leading film stars. In 2002, he was one of the youngest music directors for whom the nightingale of India, Lata Mangeshkar, sang all the songs for Yash Chopra’s Mujhse Dosti Karoge starring Hrithik Roshan and Kareena Kapoor. However, Sharma’s primary interest remains with Indian classical, fusion and experimental music.

In 2002, Sharma was the first Indian musician to record with the French pianist Richard Clayderman for The Confluence, which was one of India’s best-selling albums. He recently composed Rebel, a santoor rock album, and an album with folk musicians of Kashmir and numerous other collaborations. He has collaborated on over 60 live and studio albums throughout his 15-year career. He and Hussain have collaborated on several projects, including a live recording. Sharma is honored to continue to carry on his father’s legacy and especially honored to be collaborating again with Hussain on these classical Indian music concerts.
WORLD MUSIC SERIES 2016–17

Huun Huur Tu
Monday, Sept. 26, 2016, 8 p.m.
Stansbury Theatre

Kane Mathis Duo
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017, 8 p.m.
Harper Hall

Ken and Brad Kolodner with Rachel Eddy, hammered dulcimer, banjo and fiddle
Monday, Feb. 27, 2017, 8 p.m.
Harper Hall

Zakir Hussain with Rahul Sharma
Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 8 p.m.
Memorial Chapel

LU Gamelan Performance
Sunday, May 21, 2017, 1 p.m.
Memorial Chapel

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