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**INDIAN TABLA VIRTUOSO ZAKIR HUSSAIN
RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES WITH MASTERS OF PERCUSSION
SATURDAY, APRIL 29 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, March 24, 2004 – Cal Performances presents renowned *tabla* master **Zakir Hussain** and the **Masters of Percussion** in an exhilarating program of classical and folk repertoire from the Hindustani (North Indian) traditions **Saturday, April 29 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Under the direction of percussion legend Hussain, the Masters of Percussion program offers an opportunity to experience India's *raga* (melodic) and *tala* (rhythmic) music traditions, as well as the dazzling dance forms from the northeast Indian state of Manipur. The concert features an array of traditional Indian instruments, including *tabla* (tuned North Indian concert drums), *ghatam* (South Indian clay pot), *dholak* (North Indian folk drum), and *sarangi* (vertical bowed instrument). Solos, duets and ensemble pieces by Hussain and his fellow musicians will showcase North Indian drumming while exploring the frontier between traditional and contemporary, folk and classical. Joining Hussain on stage are his brothers **Fazal Qureshi** (*tabla*) and **Taufiq Qureshi** (percussion); **Bhavani Shankar** (*pakhawaj* and *dholak*); **Khete Khan** (*khartal*); and **Manipuri Jagoi Marup**, an ensemble of folk dancing drummers. The program also features special guests **Ustad Sultan Khan** on the *sarangi* and *sitar* player, **Niladri Kumar**.

ARTISTS

Widely considered one of the chief architects of the contemporary world music movement, *tabla* virtuoso **Zakir Hussain**'s contribution to the world concert stage is multi-faceted and unique. The gifted son of *tabla* legend Ustad Allarakha, Hussain began touring at the age of 12, traveling to the United States in 1970 to make his debut as accompanist to Ravi Shankar. Since then, the lengthy list of career highlights includes historical collaborations with John McLaughlin and Shakti, Planet Drum with Mickey Hart, and recordings and performances with artists as diverse as George Harrison, Joe Henderson, Van Morrison, Airta Moreira,

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Giovanni Hidalgo, Pharoah Sanders, Billy Cobham, and the Hong Kong Symphony and New Orleans Symphony Orchestras.

Hussain composed the soundtracks for the films *In Custody*, *Little Buddha*, and *Everybody Says I'm Fine*, among others, and has been commissioned to compose scores for numerous dance companies, including Alonzo King's Lines Ballet and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In 2001, Hussain and pianist Ethan Iverson co-composed the score for *Kolam*, performing the music live with cellist Yo-Yo Ma for the Mark Morris Dance Group at the work's world premiere at Cal Performances; *Kolam* was part of Ma's Silk Road Project tour.

In 1992, Hussain founded Moment! Records which features original collaborations in the field of contemporary world music, as well as live concert performances by renowned masters of Indian classical music. Hussain has earned numerous awards throughout his career, among them the Padma Shri and the Padma Bhushan, two of India's highest honors awarded to civilians, and a 2002 Grammy nomination for Best World Music Album for *Saturday Night in Bombay*, an album of material from the ensemble Remember Shakti, made up of Hussain, John McLaughlin, U. Shrinivas and V. Selvaganesh.

Fazal Qureshi began his training early under the keen eye of his father, Ustad Allarakha. With encouragement and inspiration from his elder brother, Zakir, Fazal Qureshi has developed a style distinguished by an acute sense of rhythm, versatility and eloquence. He has performed both as a soloist and as an accompanist in the prestigious "Sangeet Sammelans" festival in India as well as major festivals abroad.

Taufiq Qureshi, Zakir Hussain's youngest brother, is one of the today's most sought-after rhythm programmers and percussionists for studio recordings. In addition to collaborating with his brother Zakir, Taufiq Qureshi has performed as a percussionist with a host of international luminaries including Jeremy Spencer of Fleetwood Mac, Sivamani, Louis Banks, Pandit Vishwamohan Bhatt, T.H. Vinayakram, Ranjit Barot, and others.

One of India's leading *pakhawaj* players, **Bhavani Shankar**, has toured extensively with Hussain and with leading maestros of Indian classical music and dance. A versatile

percussionist, he is a virtuoso on a variety of drums, including the *dholak*. From a family of *kathaks*, he is versed in the ancient *slokas* (poetical compositions) and rhythmic compositions of these storytellers.

Khete Khah is a gifted young musician born into the Manganiyar caste of musicians living near the beautiful city of Jaisalmer in western Rajasthan. Son of a renowned *surmai/shehnai* player, his family of uncles, cousins and brothers are all musicians. Khan's instrument is the *khartal*, an unusual percussion instrument comprised of four small flat rectangular pieces of wood held two in each hand.

Manipuri Jagoi Marup is one of India's premier performance troupes, combining dance, drumming and martial arts in its repertoire. Dedicated to the rejuvenation of traditional folk and classical Manipuri dance styles, the ensemble was established in 1963 by the late Guru Padmashri Amubi Singh, and has performed its unique style of athletic choreography all over India and the world.

Ustad Sultan Khan is one of the foremost *sarangi* players of India, renowned for his extraordinary technical and melodic control over the difficult stringed instrument. In 1974 he joined Beatle George Harrison and sitarist Ravi Shankar's "Dark Horse" tour, and has since taken his music to concert halls around the globe, gaining increasing popularity among classical and world music audiences. He has a longstanding creative relationship with Zakir Hussain, performing, touring, recording, and composing with the *tabla* player for more than 20 years.

Niladri Kumar, son and principle of celebrated sitarist Pandit Kartick Kumar, is one of India's finest young sitar virtuosos, already recognized for his dazzling technical prowess and the maturity of his melodic acumen. A rare instrumentalist equally at home playing classical music or contemporary world music, he has proven to be one of the brightest talents of his generation.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Zakir Hussain's **Masters of Percussion** on **Saturday, April 29** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00, \$34.00** and **\$46.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC

Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, April 29 at 8:00 p.m.

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley**

World Stage

**Zakir Hussain, *tabla*
presents Masters of Percussion**

Program: Coming together for a single evening, Zakir Hussain's Masters of Percussion, including Fazal Qureshi (*tabla*), Taufiq Qureshi (percussion), Bhavani Shankar (*pakhawaj* and *dholak*), Khete Khan (*khartal*), Manipuri Jagoi Marup, Ustad Sultan Khan (*sarangi*), and Niladri Kumar (*sitar*), perform a program celebrating the music of North India.

Tickets: \$24.00, \$34.00 and \$46.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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