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**GLOBAL DRUM PROJECT BRINGS WORLD PERCUSSION MASTERS
MICKEY HART, ZAKIR HUSSAIN, SIKIRU ADEPOJU AND GIOVANNI HIDALGO
TO ZELLERBACH HALL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

BERKELEY, August 28, 2007—The walls of UC Berkeley’s Zellerbach Hall will reverberate with the rhythms of the world when **Global Drum Project** takes the Cal Performances stage on **Friday, September 28, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.** Brought together by former Grateful Dead drummer **Mickey Hart**, Global Drum Project features *tabla* master **Zakir Hussain**, talking-drum virtuoso **Sikiru Adepoju** and legendary *conguero* **Giovanni Hidalgo** to create a multi-layered, globally influenced sound that is a “mesmerizing and richly musical party” (*Santa Barbara Independent*).

Global Drum Project reunites four of the musicians who together won the very first Best World Music Grammy Award in 1991 for *Planet Drum*. That album, produced by Hart and Hussain and recorded in Hart’s Sonoma County home studio, gained critical praise and spent 26 weeks atop the *Billboard* charts. In 2006, the four percussionists reunited to once again explore the rhythmic territory they first charted in *Planet Drum*. This year, with Global Drum Project, they have expanded that territory beyond the bounds of Planet Earth and linear time. “This is a deep drumming groove,” Hart has said of Global Drum Project. “We’re taking the archaic rhythm worlds into outer space. [It’s] a sound yoga of processed acoustic percussion headed straight for the trance zone that becomes a dance of ancient and modern worlds. Deep drumming is a skeleton key into these realms.”

The group will release a new CD, appropriately entitled *Global Drum Project*, October 2007, on the Shout! Factory label. A reissue of *Diga*—a 1976 recording produced by Hart featuring Hart and Hussain and widely considered a seminal album in the World Music genre—will be released on CD in 2008.

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THE MUSICIANS

Mickey Hart is best known for his nearly three decades as a percussionist with legendary Bay Area rock band The Grateful Dead. Hart and fellow Dead percussionist Bill Kreutzmann were collectively known as the Rhythm Devils, and their extended live percussion jams grew to epic proportions, incorporating an extensive arsenal of world drums and instruments previously unknown to the rock audience. Hart has long been an active proponent of the universal language of percussion, and his association with Zakir Hussain reaches back to the mid-1970s when they performed together in the experimental ensemble Diga Rhythm Band. Through the years, Hart has also composed scores and soundtracks for television and motion pictures, and co-wrote with Hussain a major composition performed by 100 percussionists at the opening ceremony of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. Hart is an activist, researching and supporting the neurological underpinnings and healing power of rhythm; a Trustee of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress; and an author, having penned four books on the history, mythology and practice of music.

Tabla player **Zakir Hussain** began touring with his father, Indian *tabla* legend Ustad Alla Rakha, at age 12. Hussain's international performance career often comprises more than 150 concert dates a year and has included performances with George Harrison, Joe Henderson, Van Morrison, Jack Bruce, Tito Puente, Pharoah Sanders, Billy Cobham, the Hong Kong Symphony and the New Orleans Symphony. He is a master of the classical *tabla* and is the favored accompanist of many of India's greatest classical musicians and dancers, including Ali Akbar Khan, Ravi Shankar, Birju Maharaj and Shivkumar Sharma. In 1988, the Indian government awarded Hussain the title Padma Shri, an honor given to civilians of merit; he was the youngest percussionist to receive the award. Hussain has composed and recorded several film scores, including the music for Bernardo Bertolucci's *Little Buddha*, for which he composed, performed and served as Indian music advisor. Hussain, a Bay Area favorite, was last here during Cal Performances' 2005 Season.

Sikiru Adepoju began learning the talking drum (an hour glass shaped West African drum) from his father at the age of six in Eruwa, Nigeria. As he matured, he toured and recorded

several albums with renowned Nigerian juju artist Chief Ebenezer Obey and his Inter-Reformers Band, and in 1985 Adepoju toured the United States with O. J. Ekemode. He met Nigerian percussion phenomenon Babatunde Olatunji in the United States and soon joined his ensemble, Drums of Passion, embarking on 17-year period of recording and touring with the group—a period that ended a year before Olatunji's death in 2003. Adepoju has performed with Stevie Wonder, Carlos Santana, the Grateful Dead and Trinidad-born steel pan wizard Val Serrant, to name a few. He is a master of many indigenous percussion instruments, including the *dundun*, *gudugudu*, *gome*, *omele* and *shekere*.

Giovanni Hidalgo was born into a Puerto Rican household filled with the drums, bongos, congas and timbales played by his father and grandfather, both musicians. He began drumming at age eight, and at 18 he traveled to Cuba to play with the Afro-Cuban band Batacumbele and to perform on the group's debut album. Hidalgo drew inspiration from the Cuban musicians, and the musicians in Hidalgo's homeland drew inspiration from him, resulting in a boom in Cuban-style music in Puerto Rico. While playing with Eddie Palmieri, Hidalgo met jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie who, in 1988, asked Hidalgo to join his United Nations Jazz Orchestra. In the 1990s, Hidalgo taught at Boston's Berklee College of Music. He plays barehanded, as is the tradition with his instruments, and is renowned for his lightning-fast precision and range of sound rivaling that of drummers who play with sticks.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Global Drum Project** featuring **Mickey Hart, Zakir Hussain, Sikiru Adepoju** and **Giovanni Hidalgo** on **Friday, September 28** are **\$24.00, \$38.00** and **\$52.00**. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students; UC Berkeley Alumni Association members, UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, and other students receive a \$5 discount. For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.net.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, September 28 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Bancroft at Dana Court, Berkeley

Global Drum Project
featuring Mickey Hart, Zakir Hussain
Sikiru Adepaju & Giovanni Hidalgo

Program:

Four master percussionists from different cultures—Mickey Hart of the United States playing a variety of drums, Zakir Hussain of India playing *tablas*, Sikiru Adepaju of Nigeria playing the talking drum and Latin percussion master Giovanni Hidalgo of Puerto Rico—will combine forces to fuse a global percussion sound.

Tickets: \$24.00, \$38.00, and \$52.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; and at the door.

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