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[Press Room](#)



Images of Sandeep Das and the HUM Ensemble are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
SANDEEP DAS AND THE HUM ENSEMBLE,
DELHI TO DAMASCUS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 IN HERTZ HALL**

Berkeley, August 24, 2018 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley presents **Sandeep Das**, *tabla* virtuoso and Grammy Award-winning member of the Silkroad Ensemble, with the **HUM Ensemble** on Sunday, October 7 in Hertz Hall. In this latest project, *Delhi to Damascus*, HUM celebrates the cultural heritage shared by India and Syria, and for it Das is joined by an international group of collaborators fluent in Indian and Arab classical and folk music styles. The ensemble's repertoire explores the centuries of music that emerged along the trade road from Jaisalmer in India to Damascus in Syria, dating to 130 BCE when both locales were integral parts of the legendary Silk Road. The program includes traditional Indian *ragas* set in conversation with the melodic interplay of

Arabic *maqams*, settings of Sufi poems and lyrical Hindustani love songs, and classical rhythmic forms as well as driving folk dances.

Das founded the HUM Ensemble (the acronym stands for Harmony and Universality through Music) as a vehicle for musical advocacy, cross-cultural collaboration, and education. The word “hum” means “we” in Hindi, and Das’ vision—to connect the classical music of India with musical traditions from across the globe—is inspired, in part, by his long association with Yo-Yo Ma and the **Silkroad Ensemble**, with whom he won a Grammy last year. The HUM ensemble features a revolving cast of virtuoso musicians, anchored by Das’ percussion. For *Delhi to Damascus*, Das is joined by Syrian *oud* master **Issam Rafea**, Indian vocalist and *sarangji* player **Suhail Yusuf Khan**, and *sitar* player **Rajib Karmakar**.

Prior to the performance, Das and musicians will lead a lecture demonstration on the shared musical traditions that have contributed to the program. This event will be accompanied by discussion presented in association with the P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Center for Silk Road Studies (TCSRS) at UC Berkeley, beginning at 1:40pm in Hertz Hall.

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Sandeep Das and the HUM Ensemble* on Sunday, October 7 at 3pm in Hertz Hall are \$54 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, October 7, 3pm

Hertz Hall
Bancroft Way at College Avenue
UC Berkeley campus

World Stage
Sandeep Das and the HUM Ensemble
Delhi to Damascus

Program: *Tabla* player and Grammy Award-winning member of the Silkroad Ensemble Sandeep Das celebrates the vibrant cultural heritage shared by India and Syria in the latest project by his acclaimed HUM Ensemble. Strings, drums, bowed drones, and *raga* and *maqam* melodies rooted in Sufi poetry come together to connect ancient civilizations with modern virtuosity in *Delhi to Damascus*. Das is joined by Syrian *oud* player Issam Rafea, Indian vocalist and *saranggi* player Suhail Yusuf Khan, and *sitar* player Rajib Karmakar to explore centuries of classical and folk music that emerged along the winding trade road from Jaisalmer in India to Damascus in Syria.

Tickets: \$54 (prices subject to change)

Lecture Demonstration

Hertz Hall

Sunday, October 7, 1:40-2:30pm

A pre-performance discussion and demonstration with the artists, presented in association with the P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Center for Silk Road Studies (TCSRS) at UC Berkeley. Free to all ticketholders.