FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 24, 2018
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 raga 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 *sarangi* 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 sarangi 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
Sunday, October 7, 1:40-2:30pm
Hertz Hall
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.

– Cal Performances –