

Saturday, March 24, 2012, 8pm  
Zellerbach Hall

## Zakir Hussain & Masters of Percussion

with

Zakir Hussain	<i>tabla</i>
Fazal Qureshi	<i>tabla &amp; kanjira</i>
Rakesh Chaurasia	<i>bansuri</i>
T.H.V. Umashankar	<i>ghatam</i>
Sabir Khan	<i>sarangi</i>
Navin Sharma	<i>dhholak</i>
Abbos Kosimov	<i>doyra</i>
Ningombam Joy Singh	<i>dancing drummer of Manipur</i>

and special guest

Antonia Minnecola *Kathak dancer*

### PROGRAM

*Tonight's program will be announced from the stage. There will be one intermission.*

*Cal Performances' 2011–2012 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.*



Suzana Milman

**ZAKIR HUSSAIN** (*tabla*) is today appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon. A classical *tabla* virtuoso of the highest order, his consistently brilliant and exciting performances have not only established him as a national treasure in his own country, India, but gained him worldwide fame. His playing is marked by uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity, founded in formidable knowledge and study. The favorite accompanist for many of India's greatest classical musicians and dancers, he has not let his genius rest there.

Widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement, Zakir's contribution to world music has been unique, with many historic collaborations, including *Shakti*, which he founded with John McLaughlin and L. Shankar, *Remember Shakti*, the *Diga Rhythm Band*, *Making Music*, *Planet Drum* with Mickey Hart, *Tabla Beat Science*, *Sangam* with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland, and recordings and performances with artists as diverse as George Harrison, Yo-Yo Ma, Joe Henderson,

Van Morrison, Airtó Moreira, Pharoah Sanders, Billy Cobham, Mark Morris, Rennie Harris and the Kodo drummers. His 2009 recording with frequent collaborators and trio-mates Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer, *The Melody of Rhythm*, was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2010.

The foremost disciple of his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, Mr. Hussain was a child prodigy who began his professional career at age twelve and had toured internationally with great success by age 18. He has been the recipient of many awards, grants and honors, including Padma Bhushan (2002), Padma Shri (1988), the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1991), Kalidas Samman (2006), the 1999 National Heritage Fellowship Award, the Bay Area Isadora Duncan Award (1998–1999), and Grammy Awards in 1991 and 2009 for Best World Music Album for *Planet Drum* and *Global Drum Project*, both collaborations with Mickey Hart. His music and extraordinary contribution to the music world were honored in April 2009, with four widely heralded and sold-out concerts in Carnegie Hall's *Perspectives* series. Also in 2009, Mr. Hussain was named a Member in the Order of Arts and Letters by France's Ministry of Culture and Communication. Most recently, the National Symphony Orchestra with Christoph Eschenbach commissioned and premiered Mr. Hussain's *Concerto for Four Soloists* at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, which was met with great acclaim.

**Antonia Minnecola** (*Kathak dancer*) is one of few American artists recognized as a serious exponent of Kathak, the dynamic classical dance style of North India. As a choreographer, she employs Kathak to present contemporary works, often collaborating with artists of different genres, including musicians Zakir Hussain, Aashish Khan, Terry Riley, Mickey Hart and Taufiq Qureshi, singer Molly Holm, poet Michael McClure and hip-hop artist Rennie Harris. Twice a recipient of the Marin Arts Council Individual Artist Grant for Choreography, Ms. Minnecola is the disciple of Sitara Devi, widely considered the greatest female Kathak dancer of our time, with

whom she has studied under the auspices of two Smithsonian Fellowships. Ms. Minnecola has appeared in many tours and festivals including the Bay Area's Other Minds Festival, the San Francisco Jazz Festival, the Asian-Pacific Performing Arts Festival, the Auckland Festival and at Jacob's Pillow. As a solo Kathak artist, she is often accompanied by her husband, *tabla* virtuoso Zakir Hussain, and has also appeared with his ensembles, Masters of Percussion and The Rhythm Experience. She has assisted Mr. Hussain in his guest professor tenures at Princeton and Stanford universities, in several of his Meet the Composer residencies and at Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. Most recently, she has been teaching Kathak for LINES Baller's B.F.A. Program in Dance at Dominican University.

**Fazal Qureshi** (*tabla & kanjira*) began his training early under the keen eye of his father and guru, Ustad Allarakha. With encouragement and inspiration from his elder brother Zakir Hussain, Mr. Qureshi has developed a style distinguished by a fine sense of rhythm, versatility and eloquence. He has performed both as a soloist and as an accompanist in prestigious classical music festivals in India and around the world. The remarkable ease with which Mr. Qureshi accompanies veteran as well as young Indian classical instrumentalists, vocalists and dancers of both North and South, as well as Western instrumentalists, speaks of the discipline and dedication with which this talented artist has pursued music. For the past 16 years, he has performed with and composed for his world music band Mynta, based in Sweden. The group has six immensely popular and successful albums and tours regularly.

**Rakesh Chaurasia** (*bansuri*), nephew of flute maestro Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, is the most accomplished disciple of his uncle and promises to carry the Chaurasia legacy to new heights. Mr. Chaurasia possesses the right balance of strength and serenity, critical factors for an exceptional flutist. He has already globe-trotted many times over, enthralled audiences

at classical and semi-classical concerts in Japan, Australia, Europe, South Africa and the United States. He is also an accomplished and versatile studio performer, having recorded with most of the leading stalwarts of the Indian film industry.

**T.H.V. Umashankar** (*ghatam*) is descended from a lineage of highly accomplished Carnatic (South Indian classical) percussionists. The grandson of Shri T. R. Hariharan Sharma and son of *ghatam* legend T. H. "Vikku" Vinayakram, he has distinguished himself as an accompanist to the esteemed Carnatic musicians of our time, including M. S. Subbulakshmi, Balamurali Krishna and U. Srinivas. He has also performed with great musicians in the Hindustani (North Indian classical) tradition, with such Western jazz artists as John McLaughlin and Jonas Hellborg, and as a regular session artist for such Indian film music composers as A. R. Rahman and Illyaraja.

**Sabir Khan** (*sarangi*) is an Indian *sarangi* player belonging to the Sikar Gharana (School) of Music—the same school which has produced some of the most respected, prodigious talents in Indian classical music. Mr. Khan was exposed to music when he was six years old through his grandfather Ustad Gulab Khan. He is well known today for his delicate mastery of *sarangi*. His technique of playing is a rare combination of *sur* and *laya* (note and rhythm). Mr. Khan has performed alongside great Indian artists such as Ustad Zakir Hussain, Pandit Kumar Bose, Pandit Anindo Chatterjee, *ghazal* maestri Ustad Gulam Ali and Talat Aziz, and the legendary singer Asha Bhosle. Mr. Khan most recently released an album with the great Lata Mangeshkar.

**Navin Sharma** (*dhholak*) was born in the Ulhasnagar district of Maharashtra in 1975 to a musical family and started studying the *dhholak* at a very young age. His first guru was his father, Shyam Raghuram Sharma, and through these studies was introduced to other local musicians who were actively composing scores for Bollywood films. After realizing his desire to study more Indian classical music, his

father insisted he learn from *tabla* master Ustad Allarakha, with whom he studied for several years. Mr. Sharma has performed with many master musicians over his career, and with many ensembles, including jazz, fusion, pop, rock, *ghazal* and *bhajan*.

**Abbos Kosimov** (*doyra*) was born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to a very musical family. He studied at the College of Culture and Music under *doyra* master Mamurjon Vahabov and graduated in 1988. In 1991, Mr. Kosimov won second prize in Central Asia and Kazakhstan's Competition of Percussion Instruments. A few years later, he established the Abbos School, where he taught the talented youth of his country to play the *doyra* (presently there are over 100 students in his school). In 2001, in honor of the tenth anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence, Abbos was awarded a medal celebrating his status as an "Honored Artist of Uzbekistan." In 2005, he moved to the United States and he has since recorded and/or performed with the likes of Stevie Wonder, Randy Gloss's Hands On Semble, Giovanni Hidalgo and Zakir Hussain.

**Ningombam Joy Singh** (*dancing drummer of Manipur*) is a member of the Meitei Pung Cholom Performing Troupe, 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, Meitei Pung Cholom was established in 1963 by the late Guru Padmashri Amubi Singh, has performed thousands of concerts in India, and has enjoyed many successful international tours. Known for their dynamic athleticism and proficiency as well as their unique sounding drums, the dancing drummers of Manipur are a visual feast, dazzling audiences with their acrobatic choreography.