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RELEASE

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**GUITARIST JOHN McLAUGHLIN AND TABLA MASTER ZAKIR HUSSAIN BRING
REMEMBER SHAKTI
TO CAL PERFORMANCES SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, August 12, 2003 – Jazz guitarist **John McLaughlin**, tabla virtuoso **Zakir Hussain**, mandolin player **U. Shrinivas** and percussionist **V. Selvaganesh** come together as **Remember Shakti**, performing one night only **Saturday, September 20, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. The quartet revisits the hybrid rhythms that made music history in the 1970s, a period when McLaughlin and Hussain’s acoustic ensemble, Shakti, was among the first to fuse the traditions of jazz and Indian classical music. Reassembling as Remember Shakti in the late 1990s, the band “treated fusion as a platform for spellbinding virtuosity,” delivering “improvisations that flew far above cultural boundaries” (*The New York Times*). Remember Shakti’s appearance at Cal Performances is the first in the Bay Area since 1999.

REMEMBER SHAKTI

In 1975, famed British guitarist John McLaughlin founded the group Shakti with tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain. Shakti—a word in Sanskrit for creative intelligence, beauty and power—was an acoustic ensemble that employed traditional Indian musicians and underscored the guitarist’s interest in India’s music, culture, and religion. The original line-up featured McLaughlin, Hussain, violinist L. Shankar (nephew of Ravi Shankar) and percussionist T.H. “Vikku” Vinayakram. Employing a groundbreaking collaborative approach, Shakti fused together elements of the Hindustani music tradition of Northern India (Hussain’s background), the Karnatic tradition of Southern India (Shankar and Vinayakram’s background), and jazz (McLaughlin’s sensibility) with expertise and insight. Blending musical genres in the current day is a common practice, especially in the loosely defined categories of world and pop music, but Shakti’s experimentation with Indian music in the 1970s was unusual. The ensemble toured all over the world and recorded three albums, before disbanding in 1978. Almost 20

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years went by, and McLaughlin and Hussain reunited in 1997 with a reconfigured version of Shakti (and McLaughlin on a hollow-bodied Gibson electric rather than acoustic guitar) for a series of concerts in Britain, honoring the 50th anniversary of India's independence. One of the tour's performances was recorded for a double CD, entitled *Remember Shakti*. Since then, McLaughlin, Hussain, Shrinivas and Selvaganesh have toured together as **Remember Shakti** to widespread critical acclaim. The quartet's most recent recording is 2001's *Remember Shakti: Saturday Night in Bombay*.

JOHN McLAUGHLIN

From Al DiMeola, Pat Metheny, and Mike Stern to John Scofield, Bill Connors and Scott Henderson, **John McLaughlin** has been a strong influence on many of the top jazz-fusion guitarists of the last 30 years. Born in Yorkshire, England, McLaughlin worked with Alexis Korner, Graham Bond, Ginger Baker and others in the 1960s, and in 1969 went to New York to play with Tony Williams, as well as appear on two classic Miles Davis albums, *In a Silent Way* and *Bitches Brew*. In 1971 McLaughlin formed the Mahavishnu Orchestra, an outfit that went on to become one of the most highly regarded jazz fusion ensembles of the '70s. McLaughlin surprised the music world by switching to the acoustic guitar and the India-influenced sounds of Shakti in 1975, and since then has gone back and forth between electric and acoustic, leading The One Truth band, playing in trios with Al DiMeola and Paco de Lucía, recording a tribute to pianist Bill Evans and touring and recording with Remember Shakti, among many other pursuits. The guitarist has produced dozens of recordings for Marmalade, Dawns, Douglas International, Columbia, Warner Bros. and Verve.

ZAKIR HUSSAIN

Widely considered one of the chief architects of the contemporary world music movement, tabla maestro **Zakir Hussain**'s contribution to world music 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 historic 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, Airto Moreira, Giovanni Hidalgo, Pharoah Sanders, Billy Cobham, the Hong Kong Symphony and New Orleans Symphony. 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 the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In 2001 Hussain and Ethan Iverson of the Mark Morris Dance Group co-composed the score for Mark Morris' *Kolam*, later performing the music live with Yo-Yo Ma at the work's world premiere at Cal Performances.

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 1992 Grammy for Best World Music Album for *Planet Drum*, the album he co-created with Mickey Hart.

U. SHRINIVAS

U. Shrinivas, master of the 5-stringed Indian mandolin, was trained in Chennai (formerly Madras) in Southern India. He is a well-known exponent of mandolin as a Karnatic concert instrument, doing much to elevate the status of the instrument that has only recently become a part of Indian classical music. He has recorded extensively for Real World, Verve, and the Globalstyle labels, and has been awarded numerous awards for his contributions to Indian culture.

V. SELVAGANESH

V. Selvaganesh is the son of legendary T.H. "Vikku" Vinayakram, India's foremost *ghatam* (clay pot percussion instrument) expert and member of the original Shakti line-up. Selvaganesh is widely considered the premier *kanjira*—a small drum resembling a tambourine—player of his generation, and has toured with Remember Shakti since 1999.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Remember Shakti** on **Saturday, September 20** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$26.00**, **\$38.00** and **\$56.00**. 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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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, September 20 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

World Stage

Remember Shakti

John McLaughlin, guitar

Zakir Hussain, tabla

U. Shrinivas, mandolin

V. Selvaganesh, ghatam and kanjira

Program:

John McLaughlin, Zakir Hussain, U. Shrinivas and V. Selvaganesh come together as Remember Shakti, performing a program that reflects the spirit of innovation and musical adventure that was the trademark of the original Shakti ensemble of the 1970s.

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