

ZAKIR HUSSAIN & RAHUL SHARMA

Zellerbach Theatre

Sunday, November 3 @ 7 PM

There will be no intermission.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Zakir Hussain (Tabla)

The pre-eminent classical tabla virtuoso of our time, Hussain is appreciated as one of the world's most esteemed and influential musicians, one whose mastery of his percussion instrument has taken it to a new level, transcending cultures and national borders. A child prodigy who began his international touring career by the age of eighteen, Hussain has been at the helm of many genre-defying collaborations including *Shakti*, *Remember Shakti*, *Masters of Percussion*, *Planet Drum*, *Tabla Beat Science* and *Sangam*. In February 2024, Hussain made history by receiving three Grammy® Awards in one ceremony, the first musician from India to be thus honored.

As a composer, Hussain has scored music for numerous feature films, and has composed four concertos, enjoying premieres and acclaimed performances in India, Europe and in the USA by the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. He is the recipient of countless awards, including five Grammys, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, *Officier* in France's Order of Arts and Letters, and several honorary doctorates. Voted Best Percussionist by both the *DownBeat* Critics and Readers Polls and *Modern Drummer's* Readers Poll over several years, including 2023, Hussain was honored with SFJAZZ's Lifetime Achievement Award at its 2017 gala for his "unparalleled contribution to the world of music." In 2022, he was named the Kyoto Prize Laureate in Arts and Philosophy.

Hussain is the founder and president of Moment Records, an independent record label presenting rare live concert recordings of Indian classical music and world music.

Rahul Shivkumar Sharma (Santoor)

Sharma bridges the gap between tradition and fusion in the most unique and innovative manner. The torchbearer of Padma Vibhushan Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma's santoor legacy has brought newer audiences globally through his collaborations and albums with Grammy® Award-winning musicians such as saxophonist Kenny G, pianist Richard Clayderman, electronica group Deep Forest and Peter Gabriel's Real World Music. Recently, Sharma has garnered the credit for being the first to lead the 100-stringed santoor in a symphony with the prestigious 50-member Capetown Philharmonic Orchestra at the Artscape Opera House in South Africa.

Equally at ease performing his lively concerts with Zakir Hussain or composing for India's legendary nightingale Lata Mangeshkar and superstar Amitabh Bachchan, Sharma has appeared at many prestigious events, including performing to a packed house of world leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. By continuing his father's work as a groundbreaking star of international repute who singlehandedly brought the Kashmiri santoor to the classical concert stage, and by dint of his own brilliant, creative contributions to the development of his instrument and its audiences, Sharma has created a space and sound for the santoor never previously heard as he passes on the legacy as a Guru to his students and to his son, Abhinav Sharma.