NILADRI KUMAAR
THE SPACE BETWEEN THE NOTES

SITAR Niladri Kumaar
KEYS Agnelo Fernandes
DRUMS Sambit Chatterjee
TABLA Satyajit Talwalkar

Zellerbach Theatre
Sunday, November 1 @ 7 PM

There will be no intermission.



William Penn Foundation

This performance is part of the Arts of India Festival, which is co-presented with Sruti, The India Music & Dance Society, Philadelphia. Lead support for the Arts of India Festival is provided by the William Penn Foundation.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Niladri Kumaar (Sitar)
Sitar maestro Niladri Kumaar is hailed as a maverick musician and composer, a celebrated ambassador, and an Indian music icon. One of India's most compelling and innovative stars, he is considered a serious exponent of Indian classical music and one of today's most sought-after Indian musicians. With years of training starting at the age of four under his father and Guru Pandit Kartick Kumaar, he gained an in-depth understanding, technique and unmatchable mastery of the sitar, developing his own distinct style.

Kumaar is the creator of the Zitar (an electric sitar), which has catapulted him into one of today's most prominent sitar players. The innovation of this instrument created a new wave of music, giving rise to a totally new genre that is widely imitated and appreciated. Kumaar's combination of style, appeal, approach, melody and skill make him an inspiration for many. His approach to portraying the delicate, detailed nuances of Indian music and his ability to make them so accessible to listeners across ages are one of a kind.

As a composer, he is one of the few classical artists who earned the coveted Filmfare award for his work in cinema. His performances on television have become some of the most talked about and watched moments for classical Indian music on commercial platforms. He also won the highest honor in performing arts, the Sangeet Natak Akademi National Award, given by the president of India.

Kumaar frequently collaborated with the late Zakir Hussain. Their sitar-tabla duo was a popular and prominent collaboration. *The Space Between the Notes*, releasing later this year, is an extraordinary recording of a live concert from these two maestros in Mumbai, India—their only recorded performance together. Honoring the musical tradition that they came from and that brought them together, Kumaar continues to expand the reach of Indian music with this specially curated tour featuring his sitar, zitar and an ensemble of Indian musicians.

Agnelo Fernandes (Keys)
Fernandes started learning the violin at an early age under his dad, Balthazar Fernandes, an arranger and orchestrator for the famous musical duo Kalyandji-Anandji. He learned the trumpet under Chiyokozu Ohtsuka and played with the Bombay Chamber Orchestra, learned the French horn under the tutelage of Alan Jones and Elizabeth Randall, and eventually was inspired to play the piano by his brother-in-law, Ben Fernandez, a jazz pianist. He started playing keyboards with various pop acts in Mumbai and got drawn towards the electronics of music (programming/synthesis). Fernandes has collaborated with Raju Singh, Mehnaz, Shiamak Davar, Aadesh Srivastav, Terence Lewis, Leslie Lewis, Pritam, Rabbi Shergill, Shibani Kashyap, Niladri Kumar, Bombay Vikings (Neeraj Sridhar) and Salim-Suleiman.

Sambit Chatterjee (Drums)
Chatterjee has been playing drums for the past 15 years, taking tabla classes from his father and Grammy®-nominated tabla maestro, Pandit Subhen Chatterjee. Now, he has branched out and is trying to find his own sound. Chatterjee has been endorsed by some of the leading music brands of today, including Zildjian Cymbals, EVANSDrum Heads, Vic Firth drumsticks, Sennheiser IEMS, Neumann Microphones and CRS Cymbal Resonant System. He has played with prominent bands like What Escapes Me, aswekeepsearching, Karma – BandishFusion and Amyt Datta, as well as virtuosos like DIVINE, Mohini Dey, Niladri Kumaar, Rhythm Shaw and Tajdar Junaid. He is the touring drummer of Bollywood sensation playback singer Nikhita Gandhi. Chatterjee's band has toured with artists, including Parkway Drive, PLINI and Polyphia, and his bands have played with Deep Purple, Steve Vai, Katy Perry, Dua Lipa, Post Malone, GooGoo Dolls, War on Drugs, Kings of Leon and many more. He has also played with eminent senior classical musicians including Grammy® Award-winning Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Ustaad Taufiq Qureshi.

Chatterjee was invited by the genius Zakir Hussain to play at his father Ustad Allah Rakhha Khan's 100th birthday celebration concert. The very next day, he performed at National Centre for the Performing Arts with highly acclaimed vocalist Isheeta Chakraborty for the Mumbai International Jazz Day, under the direction of Herbie Hancock and curated by the Indian jazz legend Louiz Banks. Chatterjee is also a regular at the biggest festivals in India and a prominent name in the Indian music circuit. At the NH7 Weekender Festival, Chatterjee was invited by Switchfoot, the American alternative band, to share the stage and play with them. He was the only drummer to represent India at the Commonwealth Games Gold Coast 2018. Chatterjee is also the festival director and curator of Kolkata International Drum Festival, which was a huge success and saw some of the biggest names in drumming in India.

Satyajit Talwalkar (Tabla)
Talwalkar, a young, talented and promising tabla player, belongs to a rich heritage of music; he is a son and disciple of Great Guru Padmashree Taalyogi Pt. Suresh Talwalkar and renowned Indian classical vocalist Smt. Padma Talwalkar. He started learning at the age of four and gave his first public performance when he was nine.

Talwalkar has accompanied the great musicians of India, including Ust. Amjad Ali Khan, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma and Pt. Jasraj. He also regularly performs with Niladri Kumaar, Rakesh Chaurasia, Amaan Ali Khan, Ayaan Ali Khan, Purbayan Chatterjee and Rahul Sharma. He is fortunate to perform with celebrated percussionists like Trilok Gurtu and Shiva Mani. He is very interested in fusion world music and has performed many concerts with world-renowned piano wizard Mr. Louiz Banks. Talwalkar has been awarded the prestigious Bharatratna Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, as well as the Aditya Birla Kala Kiran Puraskar.