



ZAKIR HUSSAIN

Tabla **Zakir Hussain**
Veena **Jayanthi Kumaresh**
Carnatic Violin **Kumaresh Rajagopalan**

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.



Sunday, October 5 at 7 PM

Zellerbach Theatre



This performance is co-presented with Sruti, The India Music and Dance Society.

PROGRAM NOTES

Zakir Hussain, Kumaresh Rajagopalan and Jayanthi Kumaresh—each renowned for their own accomplishments—bring a unique contribution and influence to the collaboration. Hussain is a master tabla player known the world over for his dazzling and mesmerizing performances and collaborations with artists of all genres. Rajagopalan is known as one of India's top Carnatic violinists credited with brilliant musical interpretations with numerous artists including a dynamic violin duo with his brother. Kumaresh is recognized as one of the world's top performers on the veena, a plucked stringed instrument with origins to Pakistan. The veena is considered by many a celestial instrument with ties to ancient times. The musical result of these three artists together on stage is a brilliant virtuosic performance combining traditional Indian classical music with flavors of Carnatic music hailing specifically from southern India.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Zakir Hussain (Tabla) is considered one of the greatest musicians of our time. Along with his legendary father and teacher, Ustad Allarakha, he has elevated the status of the tabla, both in India and around the world. A favorite accompanist for India's leading classical musicians and dancers, Hussain is also widely recognized as a chief architect of the world music movement due to his historic collaborations, including *Planet Drum* and his ever-changing moveable feast, *Masters of Percussion*.

A child prodigy, Hussain began touring at the age of 12, becoming the most acclaimed Indian musician of his generation and one of the world's leading percussionists. He is the recipient of many honors, including a recent Grammy® in the Best Contemporary World Music category for *Global Drum Project* with Mickey Hart, Giovanni Hidalgo and Sikiru Adepaju. Both *Modern Drummer* and *Drum!* Magazines named him Best World Music Drummer and Best World Beat Percussionist, respectively, in 2007. In April 2009, his music was showcased for four sold-out nights at Carnegie Hall's Artist Perspective Series.

Hussain has contributed to innumerable recordings and has received widespread recognition as a composer for his many projects, scores and soundtracks including Yo-Yo Ma's *Silk Road Project* and the acclaimed *Concerto for Banjo, Bass and Tabla* commissioned by the Nashville Symphony for their opening gala in 2006 (co-composed with his constant colleagues, Edgar Meyer and Béla Fleck). zakirhussain.com

Jayanthi (Kumaresh) Radhakrishnan (Veena) was born into a musical family where talent has been cultivated for the last seven generations. She began playing the veena when she was barely three years old, quickly receiving numerous awards throughout her youth. She became one of the youngest veena artists to receive a "Top Grade," a distinction reserved for artists considered to be masters of their field, from All India Radio, one of the largest broadcasting networks in the world and the exclusive musical grading body in India.

As a world renowned performing artist, she has played at the Theatre de la Ville in Paris, the UN and World Music Centre in New York, Music Guimet in Paris and the Indian Embassy at Sharjah. She recently released a groundbreaking album called *Mysterious Duality* (2010) which marked the first time one artist and one instrument created an orchestral sound. Apart from solo performances, she has her own world music ensemble called Indian Spice and often collaborates with musicians from many different genres.

She is currently the Managing Director of Home Records, a Bangalore-based music company, which strives to encourage and spread ecological awareness through the

dynamic aspects of Indian music. Additionally, she is the founder and musical director of the Indian National Orchestra, creating the first organization which showcases the best musical talent in India in one group. ganeshkumares.org

Kumaresh Rajagopalan (Carnatic violin)

At the age of five, Kumaresh Rajagopalan gave his first Carnatic violin performance with his elder brother. The skilled duo was recognized as child prodigies, leaving those who watched in awe of the performance. He continued to nourish his love for creating music by forming the world music ensemble Brahma, along with his brother Ganesh (Violin), Paul Jacob (Bass Guitar), John Antony (Lead Guitar) and Jim Sathya (Keys). The contemporary blend of the ensemble stimulated the need for him to create his own compositions as well.

He has been privileged to have performed with Zakir Hussain on several world platforms. He has been honored with several awards for his violin playing including: Kalaimamani for Excellence in the Field of Art & Literature, Sunadha Sironmani, Sangeetha Saragnya, Dwaram Venkataswami Naidu Award and Asthana Vidwan of Kanchi Mutts.

In his thirties, Rajagopalan transitioned into becoming a full-fledged composer and teacher in addition to a performer. Many of his Varnams and Krithis have been popularly performed in concerts across the world. His most notable compositions for the film and stage include: *Lessons in Forgetting*, an award-winning Indian film in English, *Zapperdockel and the Wock*, a German play for Ranga Shankara and *Abbakarani*, a dance production on the Rani Abbaka. His musical score for the film *Lessons in Forgetting* won him the Best Original Music Score Award. veenaijyanthi.com