



Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 8pm  
Zellerbach Hall

**Zakir Hussain, *tabla***  
**with Niladri Kumar, *sitar***  
and special guest Mickey Hart

*Tonight's concert will last approximately two hours and will include an intermission.*

Tonight's concert will present an exploration of Indian music, both ancient and cutting-edge, combining a traditional classical offering with a collaborative exploration of the *raga* and *tala* systems. The concert will begin with a rendition of a classical *raga* performed on *sitar* by Niladri Kumar and accompanied on *tabla* by Zakir Hussain. This piece will begin with a full *alaap* by Niladri Kumar in the Hindustani classical tradition, presenting and expounding on the *raga*. The concert will also include a *tabla* solo piece by Zakir Hussain, and will conclude with a contemporary-style performance based on the folk melodies of India. Zakir Hussain and Niladri Kumar are delighted to welcome Mickey Hart as a special guest at tonight's concert.

**Zakir Hussain** (*tabla*) is the pre-eminent classical *tabla* virtuoso of our time. Considered a national treasure in his native India, he is one of the world's most esteemed and influential musicians, renowned for his genre-defying collaborations.

Widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement, Zakir Hussain's contribution has been unique, with many historic and groundbreaking partnerships, including Shakti, Remember Shakti, Masters of Percussion, the Diga Rhythm Band, Planet Drum, Tabla Beat Science, Sangam with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland, in trio with Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer, and most recently, with Herbie Hancock. The foremost disciple of his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, Zakir Hussain was a child prodigy who began his professional career at the age of 12, touring internationally by the age of 18.

As a composer, he has scored music for numerous feature films, major events, and productions. He has composed two concertos, and his third, the first-ever concerto for *tabla* and orchestra, was premiered in India in 2015, was heard in Europe and the UK earlier this year, and will be performed in the US next April with the National Symphony Orchestra at Kennedy Center. A Grammy winner, he is the recipient of countless awards and honors, including Padma Bhushan, a National Heritage Fellowship, and being named an *Officier* in France's Order of

Arts and Letters. In 2015 he was voted Best Percussionist by both the *Downbeat* Critics' Poll and *Modern Drummer's* Readers' Poll.

As an educator, Zakir Hussain conducts many workshops and lectures each year, has been in residence at Princeton University and Stanford University, and, in 2015, was appointed Regents Lecturer at UC Berkeley. He is the founder and president of Moment Records, an independent record label presenting rare live concert recordings of Indian classical music and world music. Zakir Hussain was resident artistic director at SFJazz from 2013 until 2016.

**Niladri Kumar**, a renowned, fifth-generation *sitar* player, is an unconventional and rare instrumentalist, honing a unique repertoire and deep understanding of traditional and classical styles on the *sitar* while at the same time bravely reaching out to new, younger audiences. Sympathetic to new trends, he has redefined the way audiences view Indian classical music through the invention of his own instrument—an electric *sitar* that he has called the *zitar*.

Sound has waves, but Niladri Kumar's *zitar* creates "ripples." The *zitar* has allowed him to reach a wider audience, bridging the "age un-gap," as he calls it, where individuals from all walks of life can find a place in his music that they can call their own. Through these various efforts, he has emerged as one of the world's finest *sitar* and *zitar* masters.

**Mickey Hart** is a pivotal innovator, chronicler, and influencer in percussion and rhythm. Best known as a drummer in the renowned expedition into the soul and spirit of rock and roll, The Grateful Dead, the multi-Grammy winner is also an energetic painter, accomplished writer, restless explorer, and an acclaimed expert on the history and mythology of drums. A true original armed with an inventor's audacious curiosity, Hart seeks to break the rhythm code of the universe and investigate its deepest vibrations.

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