



ZAKIR HUSSAIN, TABLA
WITH RAKESH CHAURASIA, BANSURI

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 7:30pm

Tryon Festival Theatre

PROGRAM

**ZAKIR HUSSAIN, TABLA
WITH RAKESH CHAURASIA, BANSURI**

This performance will be announced from the stage.

Zakir Hussain and Rakesh Chaurasia appear by arrangement with:
IMG Artists
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New York, NY 10019
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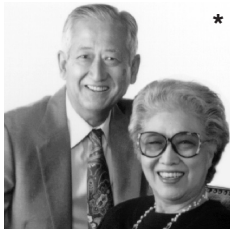
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PROFILES

The preeminent classical tabla virtuoso of our time, **ZAKIR HUSSAIN** is appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon. 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, Hussain's contribution has been unique, with many historic and groundbreaking collaborations, including Shakti, Remember Shakti, Masters of Percussion, 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, Hussain was a child prodigy who began his professional career at the age of 12, touring internationally with great success 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 September 2015. It later premiered in Europe and the United Kingdom in 2016, and it was performed in the United States in April 2017 by the National Symphony Orchestra at Kennedy Center. Hussain is a Grammy Award-winner, and he is the recipient of countless additional awards and honors. These include Padma Bhushan, National Heritage Fellowship,

and *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* Reader's Poll.

As an educator, he 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. Hussain was resident artistic director at SFJazz from 2013 until 2016.

On January 15, 2018, HarperCollins India released Hussain's long-awaited oral memoir, (available on Amazon), *A Life in Music*, by Nasreen Munni Kabir. Kabir is a distinguished British television producer, director, and author. The *Life* is the result of two years of intensive interviews.

"It is not only a pleasure to accompany Rakesh Chaurasia in concert, but I must say that sitting with him on stage instills a great sense of pride in me. He is one of the new breed of Indian classical musicians who have an admirable grasp of many genres of music. To listen to him and hear his musicality, his point of view and approach to the ancient art form in which he has received his training is really a breath of fresh air. He most certainly is a worthy successor to his uncle, the greatly revered flautist Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia."
—Zakir Hussain

RAKESH CHAURASIA, the nephew and child prodigy of flute maestro Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, has a famous name to live up to. Amongst the promising musicians of the second generation, Chaurasia has carved a niche for himself as an accomplished flautist. Infusing his personal style with the tradition of his renowned uncle, he has evolved an approach which maintains the purity of the flute while also managing to capture the attention of young listeners. The most accomplished of his uncle's disciples, he promises to carry the Chaurasia legacy to new heights.

Chaurasia's flute has matched note and rhythm with wind instruments of other cultures as well as having performed "jugalbandis" with Carnatic and world-famous instrumentalists. Chaurasia's forte is in blending his flute without really losing its identity in mixed instrument concerts. Chaurasia has already globe-trotted many times over, enthraling audiences at classical and non-classical concerts. He is also an accomplished studio musician, having recorded with most of the leading stalwarts of the Indian film industry.

Chaurasia has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. He received the Indian Music Academy Award, presented by the Honourable President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in 2007. Chaurasia also received Aditya Birla Kalakiran Puraskar in 2008, Guru Shishya Award in 2011, IWAP-Pandit Jasraj Sangeet Ratna Award in 2013, and the Pannalal Ghosh Puraskar 2013.

Despite his experimental work, Chaurasia has never deviated from his main goal of becoming a full-fledged classical musician. He has regularly appeared in prominent festivals such as the WOMAD festival in Athens, WOMAD Earth Station in Europe, and the "Festivals of India" in Russia, Japan, United States, and Europe. His growing maturity and status has brought him invitations to perform solo at major events within India and abroad, including the Festival of Saint-Denis in Paris and the Leicester International Music Festival in England. Most notably, Chaurasia was invited to conclude the 24-hour live BBC Radio broadcast celebrating Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee, reaching audiences worldwide.

Recently Chaurasia toured as a duo for classical concerts as well as for the Masters of Percussion with legendary tabla virtuoso, Ustad Zakir Hussain, at prestigious venues across the globe. Chaurasia has also performed with some international names such as Bela Fleck, Edgar Meyer, and Joshua Redman.

Chaurasia's most recent venture is his fusion band Rakesh and Friends (RAF). This group creates music that appeals to young people without sacrificing the essence of classical music.

Modest Chaurasia is the first to admit that he has a lot to learn, not just from his legendary uncle and maestro, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, but his peers as well. He is destined to carve a niche for himself in the realm of Indian classical music with the simple yet extremely challenging instrument, the bansuri.