

CHICAGO IMMIGRANT ORCHESTRA

Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 7:30pm Colwell Playhouse

PROGRAM

CHICAGO IMMIGRANT ORCHESTRA

Fareed Haque, co-director Wanees Zarour, co-director

Tzu-Tsen Wu—Ruan Saraswathi Ranganathan—Veena Tamir Hargana—Throat Singing, Mongolian Horse-Hair Fiddle Ugochi Nwaogwugwu—Voice, Poetry Hitesh Master Nayak—Voice, Harmonium Emad Ibrahim—Violin Juan Pastor—Percussion Richard Christian—Indian Percussion Sam Taheri—Voice Paul Cotton—West African Percussion

This performance is a co-presentation of Krannert Center and the International and Area Studies Library.

Additional support is provided by: Center for Global Studies Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies Women & Gender in Global Perspectives Program Center for African Studies Illinois Global Institute Center for Middle Eastern & South Asian Studies Robert E. Brown Center for World Music Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs and Global Strategies Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation Library Outreach and Engagement Committee

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PROGRAM NOTES

The CHICAGO IMMIGRANT ORCHESTRA

was first established in 1999 by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, to be presented as part of the first annual Chicago World Music Festival. Directed by Willy Schwartz, the orchestra involved Chicago musicians from the immigrant community representing music from all over the globe. The project lasted through 2004 but had a lasting impact on the Chicago music scene.

In 2019, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events approached guitarist Fareed Haque and oud player Wanees Zarour to restart the Chicago Immigrant Orchestra and headline 2020's Chicago World Music Festival. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the orchestra performed a critically acclaimed virtual concert in September 2020. The new CIO today is a 12-piece ensemble that consists of members of the Chicago immigrant community, representing musical traditions from all over the world.

In this fresh approach under the direction of Haque and Zarour, Chicago Immigrant Orchestra musicians from the Far East to Western Europe, Africa and the Americas are thoroughly involved in the evolution of the musical ideas that are presented.

The new Chicago Immigrant Orchestra explores the relationships and differences among these traditions, creating a unique and cohesive tapestry of cultures.

PROFILES

CO-DIRECTORS

FAREED HAQUE

Modern world guitar virtuoso, steeped in classical, jazz and global traditions, Fareed's unique command of the guitar and different musical styles inspire his musical ventures with tradition and fearless innovation. Recent projects include the acclaimed Goran Ivonovic/Fareed Haque guitar duo.

WANEES ZAROUR

Composer, arranger, and multi-instrumentalist with deep roots in Middle Eastern music and wellversed in modern jazz and global musical styles, Wanees also directs the 60-piece Middle East Music Ensemble at the University of Chicago, and his touring jazz fusion group, East Loop.

PERFORMERS

TZU-TSEN WU is a musical adventurer, exploring cultural and artistic boundaries through music. She was born in 1990, in Taiwan, and appreciates and performs a remarkably wide range of international music from Taiwanese, to Chinese, to Western classical, to contemporary pop from around the world. Tzu-Tsen plays many instruments-mostly plucked instruments-in addition to ukulele, guitar, piano, banjo, and Jakhee, specializing in Chinese zhongruan and liugin. Always striving to become a better musician, she looks for new challenges in different musical traditions and diverse styles. Tzu-Tsen started college as a biology major before turning to music full time. She has two bachelor's degrees, one in biology from National Chiayi University and the other in Chinese music from National Taiwan University of Art, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in the acclaimed World Music program at Northern Illinois University. An accomplished performer and pluck instrument teacher in both Asia and the US, Tzu-Tsen is also a director, composer, and accompanist.

SARASWATHI RANGANATHAN brings with her a legacy of firsts. She is the first Indian woman and Veena artiste to win a Chicago Music Award in its 35-year history, the first Veena artiste to perform as an orchestra member of Disney's *Jungle Book* production, and the first Veena artiste to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Logan Foundation in Chicago. She attributes her pathcarving success to the inclusive energy in her music and in her life. Her goal? Bring artists and listeners together as one community united in music and understanding. Saraswathi constantly endeavors for sounds of the Veena to reach a cross-cultural global audience. She learned Veena from her mother, Shantha Ranganathan, and from Karnataka Kalashree EP Alamelu in Bangalore. She has been performing and teaching for over three decades. Saraswathi also has the distinction as being the first Veena artiste whose original multi-lingual song "Ennai Azhaithaen—I embraced me" was commissioned by the Chicago Humanities Fest. Saraswathi is the first Veena artiste to perform live music for Chicago International Movies & Music Fest with original score for a vintage Hollywood film. If life were to be expressed in concise hashtags, Saraswathi's mission would be: #Veenalove #liveasonefamily #onestageOneMusiconeCommunity.

TAMIR HARGANA is a world-class and awardwinning performer of Mongolian and Tuvan music. Now based in Chicago, Tamir is from the far northeastern region of Inner Mongolia at the border with Mongolia, China, and Russia. He received his MM in world music performance from Northern Illinois University in 2017 and received his undergraduate degree from Inner Mongolia University Arts College with a specialty in throat singing (khöömii). He is one of the only active performers of khöömii in the United States, and is also a multi-instrumentalist accompanying himself on traditional instruments from Mongolia and Tuva, such as the morin khuur (Mongolian horse-head fiddle), tovshuur (Mongolian lute instruments), doshpuluur (Tuvan lute instrument) and igil (Tuvan string instrument). Tamir has earned high honors and awards in throat singing competitions in Mongolia, Tuva, Inner Mongolia, and Manzhouli, China. He has performed in concerts, presentations, and workshops in the US, Mongolia, Russia, Indonesia, Taiwan, and China. He was also featured in TV documentaries about throat singing and has taught throat singing at

the Inner Mongolia University Arts College High School Preparatory Division from 2013–2014. Recently, he performed in Carnegie Hall and in the NAMM show. He currently teaches khöömii and Mongolian music in Chicago area.

UGOCHI NWAOGWUGWU is a multi-disciplinary creative. An internationally renowned poet, writer, musician, and founder of Spirit Speaks, Inc., Ugochi has executive-produced, written, and coarranged three album projects: *African Buttafly*, *A.S.E.*, and *Love Shot*. Ugochi's poems and essays have been published in international anthologies as well as nationally in the United States. Ugochi has created an original Pan-African poetry form called Ike (pronounced EE-kay), #Ikepoem, paying homage to her Igbo culture of Nigeria. Ugochi is also a playwright, activist, TRHT practitioner, and member of the AACM and Recording Academy/ GRAMMY.

HITESH MASTER's legacy started from Junagadh. He was born and raised in the town of Nadiad, Gujarat. His gifted talent for music has been passed on from generations, going far back to 1417 when his forefathers were designated royal singers in the Rajvi Parivar. The whole family was designated official royal singers for Junagadh Raivi Parivar known as Raigayaks. His forefathers were associated with the Maharaja of Gwalior since the 16th century. Hitesh has four Gurus: Ustad Rajankhan and Ustad Bashirkhan of Dewas from Mewati Gharana from whom he learned Hindustani classical music; and also learned harmonium-playing from Pandit Rambaba Petiwale and Pandit Mohan Junoir of Deshi Natak Samaj of Mumbai. One of his pioneer gurus was his own father, Vrajlal Nayak, who put him under training at the tender age of three. Hitesh gave his first performance at the age of six. He earned his master's degree in music from Gandharva Mahavidyalay of Ahmedabad in singing. Nayaks

are known as heritage singers who learned and trained in music from their forefathers. He was also associated in Bollywood for 12 years working with Shankar Jaikishan Duo, one of the greatest musicians in the Indian film industries during the Golden Era of Bollywood. Jaikishanji was trained in classical music by his forefather, Nayak Vadilal Shivram. Sangeet Kaladhar, a great music literature book, was written by his forefather, Raj kavi Dahyalal Shivram Nayak of Bhavnagar State in Gujarat. Hitesh Master is now based in Chicago, Illinois, teaching and performing music.

JUAN PASTOR began studying percussion under the tutelage of Eusebio Sirio "Pititi," master of Afro-Peruvian percussion. At the Concervatorio Nacional de Lima, he studied classical music for five years.

After realizing his interest in jazz, he moved to Chicago to study at Northern Illinois University where he received a bachelor of music and was part of the top jazz ensemble under the direction of Ronald Carter. He also studied under Greg Beyer, Rich Holly, and Robert Chappell. In 2013, he received his master's of music from DePaul University studying under Dana Hall.

Pastor has played jazz festivals all over the world. In Europe, North Sea Jazz Festival, and Poznan, Poland, Made in Chicago Jazz Festival; in the US, New York, IAJE, Chicago Jazz Fest, Hyde Park Jazz Festival, Elkhart Jazz Festival; in Mexico, JazzUV International Jazz Festival in Xalapa, XIV San Miguel De Allende Jazz & Blues International Festival; in Nicaragua, Nicaraguan Jazz Festival; in Peru, Lima Jazz Festival; and many others.

In addition, he has performed with notable recording artists such as Miguel Zenón, Howard Leavy, Jimmy Heath, Fareed Haque, Patricia Barber, Ryan Cohan, The Chicago Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble CALJE, Marquis Hill, Victor Garcia, and many others.

In 2018, he took the position of percussion teacher and combo director at La Universidad Católica del Perú. Currently he is adjunct music faculty member at Benedictine University and Northern Illinois University.

Juan Pastor is also the leader of Chinchano, a fusion of jazz with Peruvian rhythms. Their first album was released in 2014. Chinchano has gotten critical accolades from publications such as the *Chicago Tribune*, *Downbeat*, *Modern Drummer*, *All About Jazz*, and others.

Their second album, *Un Cambio*, was released in 2015 and resulted in Pastor being nominated to best drummer–percussionist in the magazine *Modern Drummer.* **RICHARD CHRISTIAN** is a tabla and dholak virtuoso. Originally from Ahmadabad, Gujarat Province, India, he holds a degree in tabla from Gandharv Mahavidyalay in Ahmadabad, India. Richard comes from the Ajarada Gharana school of tabla playing, and has performed with such luminaries as Ravindra Jain and Bappi laheri, as well as singers Sonu Nigam, Vinod Rathod, Sabbir Kumar, and Dr Kamlesh Avasathi, for over 15 years. Since moving to Chicago, he has performed and recorded with Fareed Haque, Tammy McCann, Kahil el Zabar, and countless others, as well performing full time with Orchestra Saregama and Hitesh Master.

PAUL COTTON is a principal musician with the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago. For over two decades, Paul has studied West African, Afro-Cuban, and Afro-Caribbean drums and percussion. Recently, Paul has co-led drum circles for peace across the South Side of Chicago.



https://immigrantorchestra.org

WHY NOT THEATRE: **PRINCE HAMLET**



Land Acknowledgement

The University of Illinois System carries out its mission in its namesake state, which includes the traditional territory of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution for the past 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.



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We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

NECESSARIES

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location, which will be announced to you.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

LATE ARRIVALS

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

LOST ITEMS

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

TICKET RETURNS

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu or 217.333.6280). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

SERVICES

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit, please email: Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

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