Niladri Kumaar presents

The Space Between the Notes

Thursday
October 15, 2026
7:30pm

Foellinger Great Hall

PROGRAM

NILDARI KUMAAR PRESENTS

The Space Between the Notes

PERFORMERS

NILADRI KUMAAR, sitar
AGNELO FERNANDES, keys
SAMBIT CHATTERJEE, drums
SATYAJIT TALWALKAR, tabla

THE SPACE BETWEEN THE NOTES

Sitar Maestro Niladri Kumaar is hailed as a maverick musician and composer, a celebrated ambassador, and an iconic figure in Indian music. He is one of India's most sought-after contemporary musicians and a compelling force in Indian classical music. One of his most popular and prominent collaborations was a sitar-tabla duo with the late Zakir Hussain. *The Space Between the Notes* is an extraordinary recording of a live concert of these two maestros in Mumbai, India; their only recorded performance together. Honoring the musical tradition that brought them together, Kumaar continues to expand the reach of Indian music in this specially curated performance, with his sitar, Zitar, and an ensemble of Indian musicians.

Kumaar weaves together his uniquely styled melodies with centuries-old tradition and creative innovation. The performance highlights the special musical bond between the two masters through the presentation of portions of their album recording. *The Space Between the Notes* is a musical journey rooted in tradition, and sure to resonate deeply with the hearts of the listeners.

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NILADRI KUMAAR

Niladri Kumar is a celebrated ambassador, Indian Music icon, and considered the maverick classical musician of India. A fifth generation Sitarist, he is hailed as the most enigmatic and trailblazing musician in India across generations. His contribution to the world of sitar, Indian music, classical, and contemporary is regarded by past and present legends as not just innovative, but deeply rooted in the traditional elements known of music. Under the guidance and numerous years of training from the age of four, under his father and Guru Pandit Kartick Kumar, Niladri has gained an in-depth understanding, technique, and unmatchable mastery over the sitar and developed his own distinct style. His music is greatly admired and he has earned a large following of ardent listeners across countries. He is considered a rockstar on sitar and his music is known to transport you to another realm.

He is the creator of the Zitar (an electric sitar) which has catapulted him to being today's most popular, prominent, and followed sitar player. What makes his innovation rare, is that not only did he create the Zitar, but he also created a whole new wave of music that is played with this instrument, which has led to a rise of a totally new genre that is widely imitated and followed by most musicians across generations. He is a true genius when it comes to stagecraft and presence as his music transcends generations, genres, and connects in a very personal way. Not only is he the most sought-after classical musician today, but his style, appeal, approach, melody, and skill are a combination unseen and unmatched in today's time making him an inspiration for many. Most notably his approach to portraying the delicate, detailed nuances of Indian music and making it accessible and attractive to the listeners across ages is one of a kind.

As a composer, he is one of those rare classical artists who bagged the coveted Filmfare for his work as the best composer in films. His song compositions are so powerful that his tunes 'stay' for years making them evergreen. His performances on television are the most talked about and watched moments for Indian music on a commercial platform. He recently won the highest honor in performing arts, the Sangeet Natak Akademi National award honored by the President of India.

Niladri's contribution and the extent of his impact on Indian music have created many ripples. Over 16 albums to his credit, his achievements in various aspects of music, be it classical, world or film, have been consistently recognized across all platforms. Besides winning numerous noteworthy national and international awards from the age of six, he has truly won numerous hearts of music lovers across all ages. Niladri's music showcases the divine depths of 'shastriya sangeet' and its everlasting relevance in modern changing times.

AGNELO FERNANDES

Agnelo Fernandes at an early age started learning the violin under his dad, Balthazar Fernandes, an arranger and orchestrator for the famous musical duo of yesteryear Kalyandji-Anandji. He started learning the trumpet under Chiyokozu Ohtsuka and played trumpet with the Bombay Chamber Orchestra (BCO), the French horn under the tutelage of Alan Jones and Elizabeth Randall, and eventually got 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 attracted towards the electronics of music (programming/synthesis). Agnelo has collaborated with Raju Singh, Mehnaz, Shiamak Davar, Aadesh Srivastav, Terence Lewis, Leslie Lewis, Pritam, Salim-Suleiman, Rabbi Shergill, Shibani Kashyap, Niladri Kumar, Bombay Vikings (Neeraj Sridhar), and Salim-Suleiman

SAMBIT CHATTERJEE

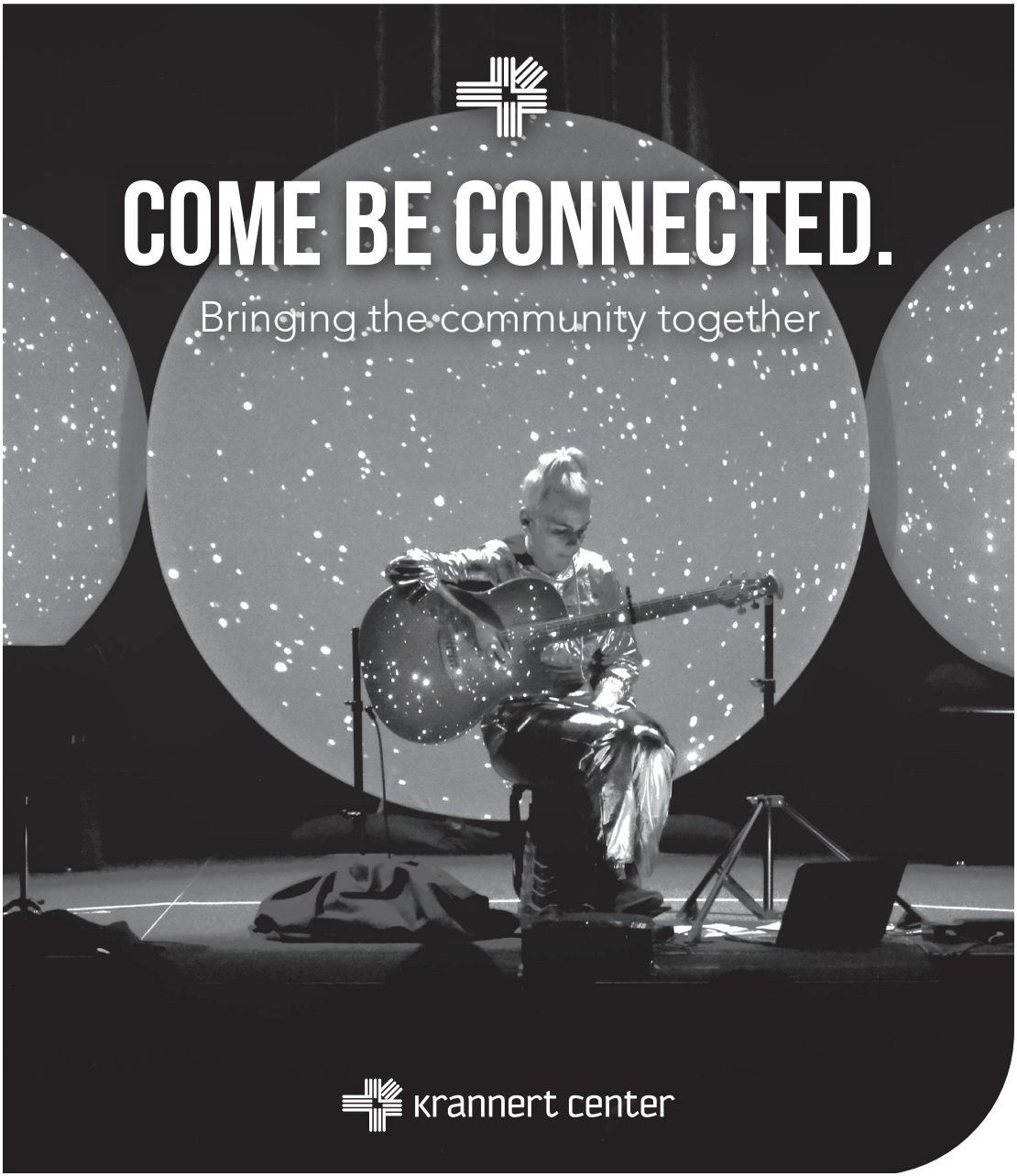
Sambit Chatterjee has been playing drums for the past 15 years, having taken tabla classes from his father, Grammy-nominated tabla maestro Pandit Subhen Chatterjee. Sambit has now branched out trying to find his own sound. He has been endorsed by some of the leading music brands of the world now like Zildjian Cymbals, EVANS Drum Heads, Vicfirth drumsticks, Sennheiser IEMS, Neumann Microphones, and CRS Cymbal Resonant System. He has played with some of the leading bands in the circuit like What Escapes Me, aswekeepsearching, Karma - BandishFusion, Amyt Datta and with some virtuosos like DIVINE, Mohini Dey, Niladri Kumaar, Rhythm Shaw & Tajdar Junaid. He also is the touring drummer of BOLLYWOOD sensation playback singer Nikhita Gandhi. Sambit's band has toured with artists like Parkway Drive, PLINI, 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 winning Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Ustaad Taufiq Qureshi. He has been invited by the genius Ustad Zakir Hussain to play solo and Indian compositions at his father, Ustad.Allah Rakhha Khan's 100th year birthday celebration concert. The very next day he performed with highly acclaimed vocalist Isheeta Chakraborty at the Mumbai International Jazz Day under Herbie Hancock curated by the Indian Jazz Legend Loiuz Banks held at National Centre for the Performing Arts. Sambit is also a regular at all the biggest festivals in India, a prominent name in the Indian music circuit. At the NH7 Weekender Festival Sambit was invited by SWITCHFOOT the American alternative band to share stage and play a song with them and he was the only drummer to represent India at the Commonwealth Games Gold Coast 2018. Sambit is also the festival director and curator of Kolkata International Drum Festival which he co-curated with his father and was a huge success and saw some of the biggest names in drumming in India.

SATYAJIT TALWALKAR

Satyajit Talwalkar is a young, talented, and promising tabla player of the present generation. He belongs to a rich heritage of music as the 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.

He has accompanied the great musicians of India including Ust. Amjad Ali Khan, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma, and Pt. Jasraj, and regularly performs with Niladri Kumaar, Rakesh Chaurasia, Amaan Ali Khan, Ayaan Ali Khan, Purbayan Chatterjee, and Rahul Sharma. Satyajit is also very interested in fusion and world music and has performed with renowned percussionists Trilok Gurtu and Shiva Mani.

He has been awarded with the prestigious Bharatratna Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar by the Sangeet Natak Akademi and Aditya Birla Kala Kiran Puraskar.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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. 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.

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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The Youth Series features daytime performances, online media created by performing artists, and educational activities designed especially for pre-K through high school-aged students. Children who participate learn to appreciate the performing arts, gain knowledge, build social skills, and integrate live performance experiences into classroom work.

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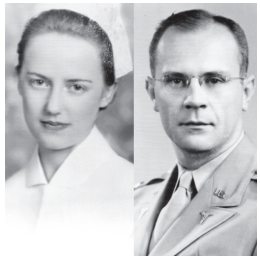
(1904-1993) March 1994



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The Poiesis Quartet is the recipient of Chamber Music America's 2026 Cleveland Quartet Award. The quartet's performance has been made possible by the Cleveland Quartet Award Endowment Fund.

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The Student Sustainability Committee provided funding for the Krannert Center Audiences Lighting Retrofit Project, which continues to increase energy efficiency, decrease labor requirements, and improve safety conditions.

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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 gender-neutral restrooms can be found 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 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 call 911 in case of an emergency.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the 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.

Large bags and backpacks, or any other item deemed to be dangerous or to pose an obstruction will not be able to enter the theatres. Please approach the Patron Services counter for assistance with these items.

Please note that food and drink are not allowed in the theatres, except bottled water.

Phones and Devices

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.

Accessibility

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 contact patronservices@krannertcenter.illinois.edu or 217.333.9716 or visit go.KrannertCenter.com/Accessibility.

Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

欢迎！如若您对您的造访需要帮助，请发送电子邮件至：

स्वागत है! अगर आपको अपने रहने के लिए मदद चाहिए, ईमेल कीजिए:

환영합니다! 방문에 관해 도움이 필요하실 때에는... 에게 이메일로 문의하시기 바랍니다:

PATRONSERVICES@KRANNERTCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU
217.333.9716

COME BE MOVED.

Art at Krannert Center isn't something you just watch—it's something you feel.

COME ON IN.
WE'LL SAVE A SEAT FOR YOU.

krannert center

SAT OCT 24 AT 7:30PM

KOJIRO UMEZAKI & HUB NEW MUSIC:

A DISTANCE, INTERTWINED

krannert center