

The Asian Arts & Culture Program at UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

CONTACT: Sue McFarland, 413-577-2486 (aacp@acad.umass.edu)
WHAT: Zakir Hussain with Kumaresh Rajagopalan, Violin & Jayanthi Kumaresh, Veena
WHEN: Friday, October 3
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Fine Arts Center Hall Chamber Seating

“It’s hard to imagine a better champion for Indian classical music...”

-San Jose Mercury News

Tabla Master Zakir Hussain returns to the UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center Concert Hall stage for one of a limited number of appearances with Carnatic violinist, Kumaresh Rajagopalan and Jayanthi Kumaresh on the veena. On Friday, October 3 at 8:00 p.m., these three artists (each renowned for their own vast musical accomplishments) perform a combination of traditional Indian classical music with flavors from southern India Carnatic music. Honored both in the fields of percussion and in the music world at large, Zakir Hussain is established as a National Treasure in his home country of India and is one of its reigning cultural ambassadors. A classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order, Zakir’s playing is marked by uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity. He is well-known for his groundbreaking collaborations with guitarist John McLaughlin, Mickey Hart of the Grateful Dead and George Harrison.

Jayanthi Kumaresh was born into a musical family and started playing the veena, one of the most ancient stringed instruments of India, when she was barely 3 years old. Her recently released, groundbreaking album called *Mysterious Duality* marked the first time one artist and one instrument created an orchestral sound.

Carnatic violinist, Kumaresh Rajagopalan was a child prodigy at the age of five. Along with his brother, Ganesh, he is the founder of the world music band called 'Brahmma' and is also a full-fledged composer for film and stage.

Don’t miss this rare appearance of musical masters bringing Eastern music to the ears of Western listeners!

Tickets are \$30, \$25, and \$15 for adults; \$10 for Five College students and youth 17 & under. Go to fineartscenter.com to purchase online or call the UMass Fine Arts Center Box Office at 413-545-2511 or toll free 1-800-999-UMAS.

The Fine Arts Center’s Asian Arts & Culture and Center Series are sponsored by Baystate Health & Health New England. Asian Arts & Culture Program Season sponsor is the Pioneer Valley Hotel Group. Event sponsors are WRSI 93.9 the River, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Indian Association of Greater Springfield. High resolution images are available at:

<https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>

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