



NOVEMBER 2

FRIDAY

8:00PM

SFJAZZ COMMISSION CONCERT
IN MY MIND: MONK AT TOWN HALL 1959

JASON MORAN

PALACE OF FINE ARTS THEATRE



Pre-Concert Talk featuring Jason Moran, 7PM. Free to ticket holders.

“One of jazz’s greatest new artists.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tonight, Jason Moran presents the West Coast Premiere of his original multi-media piece “In My Mind: Monk at Town Hall, 1959,” co-commissioned by SFJAZZ and Duke University. The culmination of Moran’s yearlong tribute to composer/pianist Thelonious Monk, begun in this year’s SFJAZZ Spring Season, this concert takes place just weeks after what would have been Monk’s 90th birthday (October 10).

Monk’s body of work has played a particularly vital role in Moran’s musical development. Moran has played the piano since the age of six, but it was Monk’s music—specifically, a solo rendition of “Round Midnight”—that convinced the teenage Moran to study jazz. After working with pianists Jaki Byard, Muhal Richard Abrams, and Andrew Hill in Manhattan, Moran launched his acclaimed trio, the Bandwagon. He was subsequently named *Playboy* Magazine’s first “Jazz Artist of the Year.” He has also received honors in numerous *DownBeat* Critics Poll “Rising Star” categories, including “Jazz Artist,” “Pianist,” and “Composer.”

SFJAZZ approached Moran last year about recreating Monk’s famous 1959 Town Hall concert for a performance in May 2007. Moran conceived of a larger conceptual project that would reflect upon the man himself, his history and his creative process. “It’s much larger than a tribute project,” he told the *Boston Globe*. “Monk is the reason I started playing piano. I owe him all the investigation I can do.”

To that end, Moran spent time in Duke University’s extensive Monk archive and visited Monk’s birthplace in the nearby town of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Tonight’s performance is the astonishing result, an octet performance with video projections plus sound clips of Monk rehearsing his band for the now-legendary Town Hall performance.

JASON MORAN AND THE BIG BANDWAGON

Jason Moran, piano
Tarus Mateen, bass
Nasheet Waits, drums
Ralph Alessi, trumpet
Logan Richardson, alto saxophone
Walter Smith III, tenor saxophone
Isaac Smith, trombone
Bob Stewart, tuba

MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY
Ms. Nicola M. Miner and
Mr. Robert Mailer Anderson



Encore Performance.
Artists marking a Silver Anniversary return to the Festival.



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SITAR DYNASTY

RAVI SHANKAR WITH ANOUSHKA SHANKAR

NOB HILL MASONIC CENTER

“The greatest living master of the sitar.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ravi Shankar is a musician of towering worldwide importance. A virtuoso sitarist and pioneering composer of Indian classical music, Shankar earned global renown for boundary-crossing work like 1972’s *The Concert for Bangladesh* with George Harrison (who dubbed Shankar “the Godfather of World Music”), Bob Dylan, and Eric Clapton, and his “Concerto for Sitar and Orchestra,” commissioned and performed by the London Symphony Orchestra under Andre Previn. His score for the Academy Award-winning film *Gandhi* earned Shankar an Oscar and a Grammy nomination. And in recent years he has continued to explore new sounds, collaborating with tabla master Zakir Hussain and composer Philip Glass. “Still a musical miracle worker,” writes the UK’s *Guardian*, Shankar’s sitar playing “sounds like an ecstatic communion between man and God.”

Shankar’s reputation is further bolstered by his most famous student, his daughter Anoushka. When she was only seven, Anoushka received a custom-made, scaled-down sitar from her father. By the time she made her first public performance at the age of 13, in New Delhi, India, she was displaying prodigious skill. Some of this meteoric rise can be attributed to her teacher, but even the elder Shankar recognizes that her extraordinary musical gift is rooted in something more ineffable. “Anoushka has indeed a rare talent,” he said. “There is something spiritual in the way she plays...she feels the music and gives in to it.”

The exceptional musicianship and close communion between this father and daughter team displayed on the 2000 Grammy-winning album, *Full Circle/Live at Carnegie Hall*, was also featured in a 2005 SFJAZZ Spring Season concert. As *Time* Magazine noted of the pair, “When it comes to their passion for keeping Indian classical music alive, the Shankars hit the same note.”

RAVI SHANKAR

Ravi Shankar, sitar
Anoushka Shankar, sitar
Tanmoy Bose, tabla
Ravichandra Kulur, flute
Kenji Ota, tanpura