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1

NOVEMBER 30

FRIDAY

8:00PM

WORLD VOICES: SENEGAL
YOUSOU N'DOUR

NOB HILL MASONIC CENTER

"One of the world's greatest singers."

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Recently named one of the 100 "most influential people who shape our world" by *Time* Magazine, Senegalese singing giant Youssou N'Dour has long been one of the most influential artists in the music of his home country. In addition to having a voice that is at once instantly identifiable and wholly inspiring, N'Dour created his own musical style, *mbalax*, which shifted the instrumentation of traditional West African rhythms from drums to keyboards and electric guitars and incorporated Afro-Cuban and Western rock flavors.

His clarion voice "a supple weapon deployed with prophetic authority" (*New York Times*), N'Dour gained early worldwide fame singing on Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes." Other high-profile collaborators have included Branford Marsalis, Paul Simon, and Ryuichi Sakamoto. On his new album, *Nothing's in Vain*, just released on Nonesuch Records, N'Dour returns to traditional Senegalese instruments yielding an album the BBC calls "a great introduction if you're new to Youssou N'Dour: a pleasant surprise if you're not."

On his previous album, the Grammy-winning *Egypt* (2004), N'Dour co-wrote and performed a collection of devotional songs based on his Islamic faith as practiced by his Sufi community. Always a socially engaged artist, N'Dour is a passionate campaigner for human rights and global health, and has also invested in mass media and a nightclub back in Senegal in order to support the local community.

As *Rolling Stone* summed up N'Dour's prominence in contemporary world culture: "If any third-world performer has a real shot at the sort of universal popularity last enjoyed by Bob Marley, it's Youssou, a singer with a voice so extraordinary that the history of Africa seems locked inside it."

YOUSOU N'DOUR
TBA

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1 Festival Debut.
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