

**SFJAZZ Gala 2017 Celebrating
SFJAZZ Fifth Anniversary Season &
Honoring Zakir Hussain with SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award**

Mickey Hart to present Award to Mr. Hussain

*SFJAZZ Gala AfterJam Party with performances by
Snarky Puppy & Special Guest David Crosby, and by Red Baraat*

SFJAZZ Center, San Francisco, CA, January 18, 2017

*All-Star Concert With Joshua Redman, Joe Lovano, Terence Blanchard,
Stefon Harris, SFJAZZ Collective, Eric Harland, Bill Frisell,
Cindy Blackman Santana, Mary Stallings,
John Santos, Kronos Quartet and others*

(San Francisco, CA, December 13, 2016) – SFJAZZ will host the SFJAZZ Gala 2017 celebrating the organization’s Fifth Anniversary Season and honoring **Zakir Hussain** with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award for his global artistic vision and contributions to modern music on Wednesday, January 18, 2017. The program will feature performances by **Zakir Hussain, Joshua Redman, Joe Lovano, Terence Blanchard, Stefon Harris, SFJAZZ Collective, Eric Harland, Bill Frisell, Cindy Blackman Santana**, current SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director **Mary Stallings, John Santos, Kronos Quartet**, and other special guests. All proceeds from the Gala will support SFJAZZ’s artistic and education programs. SFJAZZ Trustee Tim Dattels will serve as Gala Chair.

Grateful Dead member and longtime musical collaborator **Mickey Hart** will be on hand to present the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. Hussain.

The SFJAZZ Gala 2017 is the centerpiece of a two-week long celebration featuring exclusive concerts and events recognizing the organization’s Fifth Anniversary Season and mirrors the SFJAZZ Center’s Grand Opening in 2013. Many of the Gala’s same artists will perform over the next four nights from January 19-22 in one-time-only events spotlighting four artists who have had a significant influence on jazz and SFJAZZ: Tony Williams, Joe Henderson, Bobby Hutcherson, and John Handy.

Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings were originally scheduled to appear at this year’s SFJAZZ Gala AfterJam. SFJAZZ is deeply saddened by Sharon Jones’ recent passing and extends its heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and the Dap-Kings.

SFJAZZ announces a new lineup for the SFJAZZ Gala AfterJam Party, including **Snarky Puppy with Special Guest David Crosby** in Miner Auditorium and **Red Baraat** in the Joe Henderson Lab. Each group will perform full sets while guests enjoy open bar, cuisine, and dessert.

Snarky Puppy is one of the hottest jazz/R&B bands on the planet. For this special appearance at the SFJAZZ Gala AfterJam, Snarky Puppy will be joined by

legendary artist and Byrds and Crosby, Stills & Nash founder **David Crosby**. Snarky Puppy leader and bassist Michael League produced Crosby's latest release *Lighthouse*. The AfterJam will bring the Snarky Puppy vibe to a few of David Crosby's classic songs. Crosby says, "Snarky Puppy is quite possibly the most advanced band in the world."

Winner of the 2016 Grammy for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album, Snarky Puppy plays with an irresistible mix of funk, fire and finesse. The Brooklyn-based collective that grew out of the celebrated jazz program at the University of North Texas—which features a revolving cast of up to a dozen musicians playing guitars, percussion, horns, keyboards and sometimes strings—makes what it likes to call "music for your brain and booty." Led by bassist and composer Michael League, Snarky Puppy plays fresh groove music that smartly balances composition and improvisation, mixing rich jazz harmonies, raw funk and ripping electric guitar.

Also appearing at the SFJAZZ Gala AfterJam is **Red Baraat**. The group will close out the All-Star Gala Concert and will perform in the intimate Joe Henderson Lab. Red Baraat is the genre bending Brooklyn octet that whips up a raucously fun mix of Indian bhangra rhythms, go-go music, jazz, hip-hop and Crescent City brass funk.

VIP Packages and Gala dinner seats are sold out. Gala Concert tickets are still available for \$500.00 and \$1,000.00. All Gala concert tickets include open bar, craft cocktails and cuisine throughout the evening in the beautifully transformed SFJAZZ Center, valet parking and access to all SFJAZZ Gala AfterJam events. Luminary tickets (\$1,000) feature exclusive access to the Joe Henderson Lab for a pre-concert cocktail party spotlighting the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars performing with SFJAZZ Collective trumpeter Sean Jones and saxophonist David Sánchez, among other featured Gala artists.

A limited number of SFJAZZ Gala AfterJam-only tickets are available at \$145.00 for SFJAZZ Members and \$170.00 for general public. Tickets include open bar, craft cocktails, cuisine, valet parking and access to all SFJAZZ Gala AfterJam events.

Tickets are now available via Emily Everding, 415-283-0342, gala@sfjazz.org. For Further details on the SFJAZZ Gala 2017 including ticket and sponsorship information visit www.sfjazz.org/gala.

5th Anniversary Season Celebration, January 16-22, 2017

The SFJAZZ Center opened on January 21, 2013 and the SFJAZZ Gala 2017 kicks off the organization's two-week celebration of this important milestone. On Monday, January 16, 2017, SFJAZZ will have a free open house featuring education events and music from the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars. Then, the week features:

- **Tony Williams Spotlight** with musical director **Cindy Blackman-Santana**, January 19
- **Joe Henderson Spotlight** with musical director **Joshua Redman**, January 20
- **Bobby Hutcherson Spotlight** with musical director **Stefon Harris**, January 21
- **John Handy Spotlight** with musical director **Miguel Zenón**, January 22.

From January 26 to 29, SFJAZZ will celebrate the Bay Area's best with the **Jazz In The City** celebration featuring **Tommy Igoe Groove Conspiracy/Electric Squeezebox Orchestra** double bill on January 26, **Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers** on January 27, **John Santos Sextet** on January 28, and **ROVA Saxophone Quartet** on January 29.

Zakir Hussain

The pre-eminent classical tabla virtuoso of our time, **Zakir Hussain** is appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon. A national treasure in his native India, he is one of the world's most esteemed and influential musicians, renowned for his genre-defying collaborations. He was the foremost disciple of his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, and a child prodigy who began his professional career at the age of twelve, touring internationally with great success by the age of eighteen.

Widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement, Zakir's contribution has been unique, with many historic and groundbreaking collaborations, including *Shakti* and *Remember Shakti* with John McLaughlin, *Masters of Percussion*, the *Diga Rhythm Band* and *Planet Drum* projects with Mickey Hart, *Tabla Beat Science* with Bill Laswell, *Sangam* with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland, in trio with Béla Fleck and Edgar Meyer and, most recently, with Herbie Hancock. He appeared on saxophonist John Handy's landmark 1975 album *Karuna Supreme*, which is widely considered one of the earliest successful fusions of Indian classical music and jazz. In 2016, Zakir was invited by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama to perform in the 5th Anniversary International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert at the White House.

As a composer, he has scored music for numerous feature films, including Ismael Merchant and James Ivory's *Heat and Dust*, in which he also acted. He has composed three concertos including the first-ever concerto for tabla and orchestra, which premiered in India in September 2015, in Europe and the UK in 2016, and will be performed in the USA in April 2017 by the National Symphony Orchestra at Kennedy Center. His collaborations in dance have included work with Mark Morris Dance Group and Alonzo King LINES Ballet. He is the recipient of countless honors, including multiple GRAMMY awards, the Padma Bhushan, National Heritage Fellowship and *Officier* in France's Order of Arts and Letters. In 2015, he was voted "Best Percussionist" by both the *DownBeat* Critics' Poll and *Modern Drummer's* Reader's Poll.

Zakir settled in the Bay Area to teach at San Rafael's Ali Akbar College of Music in 1972, and has maintained his role as an educator, conducting many workshops and lectures each year. He has been in residence at Princeton University and Stanford University, and in 2015, was appointed Regents Lecturer at UC Berkeley. Zakir first appeared with SFJAZZ in 1990 in collaboration with tenor saxophone legend Joe Henderson, and was an SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director from 2013 until 2016.

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