

## **Indian and Iranian artists to perform the musical improvisations of the two countries Oct. 10 at UCSD**

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### **INDIAN AND IRANIAN ARTISTS TO PERFORM THE MUSICAL IMPROVISATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES OCT. 10 AT UCSD**

A collaboration of a player of the kamancheh (a four-string fiddle) from Iran and a sitarist and tabla player from northern India will present The Silk Road Tour: Ghazal Ensemble at 8 p.m. Oct. 10 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

The ensemble will perform music from their groundbreaking CD, Ghazal: Lost Songs of the Silk Road, featuring the first serious recorded collaboration between Indian and Iranian (Persian) classical musicians.

Shujaat Husain Khan plays the Indian sitar; Kayhan Kalhor, the Iranian kamancheh, and Swapan Chaudhuri accompanies on the Indian tabla.

Khan is the son and disciple of master sitarist Ustad Vilayat Khan. His musical pedigree continues back through his grandfather, his great-grandfather and his great-great-grandfather all leading artists of their eras. He began practicing on a specially made sitar at the age of three, started performing at six, and since then has performed at all the prestigious music festivals in India and has traveled around the world performing in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America.

Khan was recently a visiting artist at UCLA and currently lives in New Delhi. In addition to his sitar playing, he is also known for his singing of folks songs and poetry.

Kalhor is a master of the kamancheh, a fiddle capable of expressing a haunting range of nuances, articulation, accent and timbre. He was born in Tehran into a musical family, began musical studies at the age of seven and later studied at Carlton University in Ottawa, Canada, where he received his degree in music.

Kalhor has performed as a soloist and with ensembles throughout Europe, North America and Iran. He has focused on searching for new ideas to develop his improvisational language, incorporating classical Persian music, Iranian folk music and personal technique into his playing and compositions.

Chaudhuri is one of the world's leading tabla masters, having accompanied India's outstanding performers including Ravi Shankar, currently a Regents' Professor at UCSD. He is in residence at the Ali Akbar School of Music in California and has taught generations of young table players.

The performances by the three musicians on the recording and in concert in either Iranian or Indian music is based on a complex improvisation within traditional forms. The Indian and Iranian music share numerous

historical and conceptual relationships. Their improvisations then, in terms of musical possibilities, resemble a game of chess, limitless in the hands of masters.

"There's no communication problem at all," writes the New York Times. Each piece is a long three-way improvisation based on simple melodies that the players push back and forth, and the reedy scrape of Kayhan Kalhor's bowed fiddle creeps out stealthily like a human voice, a rough and ancient sound against the metallic ringing of the sitar."

In a December article last year, the Village Voice wrote: "The ensemble's spike-fiddle virtuoso Kayhan Kalhor can be heard to full effect on Ghazal: Lost Songs of the Silk Road, arguably the year's best world music album."

Tickets for The Silk Road Tour: Ghazal Ensemble are \$17 general admission, \$15 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$12 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. The performance is sponsored by the University Events Office. For information on the entire season of events sponsored by the University Events Office, visit the website, <http://ueo.ucsd.edu>, or call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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