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**WORLD MUSIC**  
**For Immediate Use**  
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## Mickey Hart and Zakir Hussain's Global Drum Project Performs Trance Grooves, Elegant Electronica and Hypnotic Percussion at UCLA Live Oct. 9

*"The members of the ensemble functioned as a team—playing off each other's percussive patterns, channeling life's pulsing energy force, and calling towards an unseen higher power."*—Music Box



LOS ANGELES—When pressed to give a concise description of **Global Drum Project**, **Mickey Hart** told Spinner.com's Around the World column simply, "This music is joy." It's a good, fitting summary for the groundbreaking, earth-spanning and category-defying collaboration between the veteran Grateful Dead drummer/ethnomusicologist Hart and tabla master **Zakir Hussain** in the latest bristling chapter of a percussion dialogue spanning more than 30 years.

The Project will weave its magic on stage, in a special presentation by UCLA Live at **8 p.m. on Thursday, October 9** at Royce Hall on the UCLA campus.

Taking their spirited explorations where they'd never gone before, the pair enlisted Nigerian talking-drum magician **Sikuru Depoju** and Puerto Rican *conguero* **Giovanni Hidalgo** for a recorded and live experience that led the Philadelphia Daily News to declare, "It's difficult to imagine how compelling and musical a percussion ensemble can be, how much it can 'sing,' until you give a listen to the Global Drum Project."

Expanding on the electro-acoustic tracks on the ensemble's debut 2007 album, "Global Drum Project", the concert moves well beyond even the vast studio possibilities of the record, blending the four virtuosos of the drum—the most ancient and primal of all music—with the live application of sampling and electronic technologies—the most modern of musical tools.

"What that means is that in real time ... we are able to alter how our sound appears onstage and make our instruments appear to morph into something other, like a tabla becomes a rhythm guitar or a piano," Hussain told Derk Richardson of SF Gate.

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And yet the traditional ways are honored at every turn. “The spiritual element is in the reverence that we all have for our traditions,” he continued. “When we approach our instrument, that reverence, that awe, that respect for what it represents is very apparent in the way we use the technology.”

Global Drum Project is more than a matter of instruments and technology. It is a meeting of distinct and creative personalities. In many ways it is an extension of the unprecedented Diga Rhythym Band ensemble Hart and Hussain led in the '70s, as well as the stunning soundscapes Hart made to be the aural representation of the river in “Apocalypse Now”. The two, along with Hidalgo and Sikuru, also anchored the Planet Drum (whose debut album won the 1992 Grammy Award for world music), one of several vibrant music explorations Hart has spurred outside of his Dead duties.

Since joining the Grateful Dead in the late '60s, New York-born **Mickey Hart** has presented percussion not just as a musical tool, but also as a philosophy and way of life. It's led him to an impressive array of pursuits reaching well beyond that iconic band, both as a voracious musician and as an ethnomusicologist and tireless preservationist and promoter. Hart serves on the board of trustees at the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center, helping to oversee the digitization of the Center's invaluable collections and has written books exploring the world of the drum, including “Drumming at the Edge of Magic”, “Planet Drum” and “Songcatchers: In Search of the World's Music”.

The New York Times has called **Zakir Hussain** “a living genius, whose unadulterated performances of Indian music are among the most thrilling concerts to be heard anywhere.” Touring as a prodigy at age 12 in the '60s, Hussain came to the U.S. in 1970 and established himself both as an international star and innovator and as a teacher, including recent visiting professor stints at Princeton and Stanford Universities. But Hussain, son and protégé of the great Ustad Alla Rakha (long-time tabla partner of Ravi Shankar), has reached well beyond Indian traditions in such cross-cultural milestones as Shakti (with English jazz guitarist John McLaughlin) and teamings with Yo-Yo Ma, George Harrison, Van Morrison and Charles Lloyd, among many others, as well as creating evocative score music for Bernardo Bertolucci's “Little Buddha” and many other films including the Merchant/Ivory production “Heat and Dust” (in which he also co-starred).

Hart has called **Sikuru Adepoju** “the Mozart of the talking drum,” which he learned at his father's side in his Western Nigeria childhood. Touring with Nigerian Juju great Chief Ebenezer Obey brought him to national and international attention. A move to the Bay Area in 1985 led to a long-running role in Babatunde Olatunji's Drums of Passion, including recordings with Stevie Wonder, Carlos Santana and the Grateful Dead.

**Giovanni Hidalgo** was just a teen when his conga skills caught the attention of no less than Dizzy Gillespie, who brought the San Juan native into his United Nations All-Star Orchestra. His extensive recording and performing credits include sessions with Paul Simon, Freddie Hubbard and Planet Drum, while his own releases have earned much acclaim, including a best Latin jazz Grammy nomination for his 1997 Hands in Rhythm collaboration with pianist Michel Camilo.

For the Global Drum Project album, the four were joined by such esteemed figures as Brazilian percussionist Airto Moreira and vocalist Flora Purim (frequent collaborators with Hart and Hussain), as well as a sample vocal from Baba Olatunji (who died in 2003), the

whole finding a space at the heart of the beat, an approach that Relix magazine said is “mapping the groove of the future” and that the Washington Post proclaimed as “subtle and complex, yet primal as a heartbeat.”

Tickets for Global Drum Project are \$52, \$40 and \$28. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.uclalive.org](http://www.uclalive.org), by phone at 310-825-2101, in person at the UCLA Central Ticket Office at the southwest corner of the James West Alumni Center and at all Ticketmaster outlets. Series and Choose-Your-Own subscription packages consist of multiple events sold at a discount, when applicable, and are on sale now. UCLA students may purchase tickets in advance for \$15. Student rush tickets, subject to availability, are offered at the same price to all students with a valid ID one hour prior to showtime.

Press images:

<http://files.performingarts.ucla.edu/0809images/Global%20Drum%20Project/>

### UCLA Live's 08/09 World music Series (updating)

- Oct. 11: Grammy Award-winning vocalist **Césaria Évora**, one of the world's most celebrated artists, returns to Royce Hall to perform the breezy, minor key ballads of her native Cape Verde including songs from her latest album “Rogamar,” a soulful and joyous celebration of the sea.
- Oct. 25: Peru's **Tania Libertad**, one of today's most significant Latin American artists, returns to UCLA Live in an evening of Afro-Peruvian roots music joined by the Portuguese singer **Lura**, who brings an exciting new street-wise sensibility and urban sensuality to the Cape Verdean music first made famous by Césaria Évora.
- Nov. 21: The leading purveyors of Hungary's wildly popular *tanchez* (“dance house”) movement and foremost interpreters of traditional eastern European folk music, **Muzsikás**, led by the legendary vocalist **Marta Sebestyén**, joins the world renowned **Takács Quartet** in an exploration of the gypsy roots in Bartók's music.
- Feb. 6: Hailing from Morocco's Rif Mountains, the **Master Musicians of Jajouka** have performed their ancient, trance-inducing music on collaborations with musicians from Ornette Coleman to Talvin Singh. Led by Bachir Attar, whose family has passed down the group's traditions for generations, this all-male ensemble features 15 *rhaita* players and five drummers.
- March 5: With their irresistibly eclectic mix of gospel, punk, Arab, African and Balkan rhythms steeped in Eastern European Jewish traditions, **The Klezmatics** are world-renowned klezmer superstars, perpetually reinventing and revitalizing this traditional genre to create exuberantly modern dance music.
- April 4: Performing works from their upcoming recording, “The Silent City,” Grammy-nominated Iranian musician-composer **Kayhan Kalhor** and members of the genre-bending string quartet **Brooklyn Rider** create a boundless musical exploration, both ancient and contemporary, bridging traditions between Persia and the West.
- April 8: Hailed by The New York Times as “the best piano duet in front of an audience today,” France's **Katia and Marielle Labèque** will be joined by the premier female flamenco vocalist of her generation, Catalonian singer **Mayte Martin** in a program including works from their new collaborative recording “De Fuego y de Agua,” featuring renditions of Spanish classics.
- April 9: Following sold-out Royce Hall appearances in 2004 and 2007, Mexican American singer **Lila Downs** returns to UCLA Live to perform her electrifying, cross-cultural blend of Mexican roots music, in which blues and jazz cohabit with rap and *ranchera*, and honky-tonk swings alongside romantic boleros.
- April 18: Son of Nigerian music legend Fela Kuti, saxophonist and vocalist **Seun Kuti** leads his father's original 20-piece band, the legendary **Egypt 80**, in an explosive dance party featuring the Kuti family's signature Afro-beat magic and social consciousness laced with a contemporary mix of urban funk, soulful grooves and hip-hop rhythms. The concert will feature music from the group's 2008 self-titled CD, as well as Fela Kuti classics.

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- May 7: Created by multi-award-winning musician David Bridie from the Australian band Not Drowning Waving, **Sing Sing** — a Papua New Guinea expression for “large musical gathering” — mixes traditional and contemporary sounds in a unique visual and musical journey through the vast physical and cultural landscapes from the forests of Papua New Guinea to the deserts of Australia.
- June 19–20: **Goran Bregovic Wedding and Funeral Orchestra** is perhaps the largest, most diverse and most irresistible world music group to hit the Royce Hall stage. With a lively ensemble that includes a Serbian gypsy band, a 12-piece classical string orchestra, a fifteen-man choir, an electric guitarist and rock drummer, and one gypsy and two Bulgarian female vocalists.

### CALENDAR LISTING:

What: **Live World Music**  
Who: **Global Drum Project** with Mickey Hart , Zakir Hussain,  
Sikuru Adepoju, Giovanni Hidalgo  
Where: **UCLA – Royce Hall**  
340 Royce Drive (enter from Sunset Blvd.)  
Los Angeles, CA  
When: **Thursday Oct. 9, 2008 8 p.m.**  
Tickets: **\$52, \$40 and \$28.**

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.uclalive.org](http://www.uclalive.org), by phone at **310-825-2101**, in person at the UCLA Central Ticket Office at the southwest corner of the James West Alumni Center and at all Ticketmaster outlets. Series and Choose-Your-Own subscription packages consist of multiple events sold at a discount, when applicable, and are on sale now. UCLA students may purchase tickets in advance for **\$15**.

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