

## Ghazal Ensemble

Ghazal, formed in 1997 by Kayhan Kalhor and Shujaat Husain Khan, has been touring the world ever since. Their first recording “Lost Songs of the Silk Road” won critical acclaim as a unique recording bringing together two Eastern classical traditions that had not performed together before. The artists’ first meeting took place in a small studio in Los Angeles after being introduced to each other through a mutual friend. They played together for twenty minutes which was all they needed to decide that their musical ideas were so similar. Their meeting sparked the idea to make a recording, and a date and time was set in New York. Shanachie Records in New York agreed to produce their first three cds, The Silk Road series. Since then, they have performed in major concert halls and festivals throughout the world. The group’s recordings are “Lost Songs of the Silk Road,” “As the Night Falls on the Silk Road,” and “Moon Rise on the Silk Road” on the Shanachie label and their most recent entitled “The Rain”, on ECM, was nominated for a Grammy in 2003.

**Shujaat Hussain Khan**, son and disciple of the late master sitarist Ustad Vilayat Khan, is one of the leading artists in North Indian classical music of his generation. Shujaat started playing sitar at the age of three and by the time he was six he began making public performances. He performs regularly at all major musical festivals in India and throughout the United States, the Far East and Europe. He belongs to the Imdad Khan gharana (school) of the sitar and is the seventh in an unbroken family line that has produced many musical masters. In 2001 he was awarded the Rashtriya Kumar Gandharva Sammaan, India's highest honor for a classical musician under the age of 45. He taught for many years Indian classical music at UCLA. He has made dozens of recordings and tours extensively around the world.

Three-time GRAMMY nominee **Kayhan Kalhor** is an internationally acclaimed virtuoso on the kamancheh, who through his many musical collaborations has been instrumental in popularizing Persian music in the West and is a creative force in today’s music scene. His performances of traditional Persian music and multiple collaborations have attracted audiences around the globe. He has studied the music of Iran’s many regions, in particular those of Khorason and Kordestan, and has toured the world as a soloist with various ensembles and orchestras including the New York Philharmonic and the Orchestre National de Lyon. He is co-founder of the renowned ensembles Dastan and Masters of Persian Music. Kayhan Kalhor has composed works for Iran’s most renowned vocalists Mohammad Reza Shajarian and Shahram Nazeri and has also performed and recorded with Iran’s greatest instrumentalists. He has composed music for television and film and was most recently featured on the soundtrack of Francis Ford Copolla’s Youth Without Youth in a score that he collaborated on with Osvaldo Golijov.

In 2004, Kayhan was invited by American composer John Adams to give a solo recital at Carnegie Hall as part of his Perspectives Series and in the same year he appeared on a double bill at Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart Festival, sharing the program with the Festival Orchestra performing the Mozart Requiem. Kayhan is an original member of Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Project for whom he continues to compose for and tour with. His compositions appear on all of the Ensemble’s albums.

**Sandeep Das** is one of the today’s leading tabla players. A favorite disciple of the legendary tabla maestro Pandit Kishan Maharaj ji of the Benaras Gharana, he has built a diverse international career, collaborating with a variety of genre-crossing artists. He has accompanied many of India’s top artists throughout India and abroad including Ravi Shankar, V.G. Jog, Girija Devi and Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. Das is also founder of HUM (Harmony and Universality through Music), an ensemble promoting global understanding through performance and education. He has composed for and performs internationally with the Silk Road Ensemble.