

ZAKIR HUSSAIN - BIOGRAPHY

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.

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*, *Remember Shakti*, *Masters of Percussion*, the *Diga Rhythm Band*, *Planet Drum*, *Tabla Beat Science*, *Sangam* with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland, in trio with Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer and, most recently, with Herbie Hancock. The foremost disciple of his father, the legendary Ustad Allarakha, Zakir was a child prodigy who began his professional career at the age of twelve, touring internationally with great success by the age of eighteen.

As a composer, he has scored music for numerous feature films, major events and productions. He has composed two concertos, and his third, the first-ever concerto for tabla and orchestra, was premiered in India in September, 2015, premiered in Europe and the UK in 2016, and received its North American premiere in April, 2017, by the National Symphony Orchestra at Washington DC's Kennedy Center. A Grammy award winner, he is the recipient of countless awards and honors, including 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.

As an educator, he conducts many workshops and lectures each year, has been in residence at Princeton University and Stanford University, and, in 2015, was appointed Regents Lecturer at UC Berkeley. He is the founder and president of Moment Records, an independent record label presenting rare live concert recordings of Indian classical music and world music. Zakir was resident artistic director at SFJazz from 2013 until 2016.

On January 15, 2018, HarperCollins India released Zakir's long-awaited oral memoir, (available on Amazon), *A Life in Music*, by Nasreen Munni Kabir, the distinguished British television producer, director, and author. The *Life* is the result of two years of intensive interviews.