

CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE UCLA

**CAP UCLA Presents Multi-Genre Musical Collaboration
Between Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain and Edgar Meyer**

As We Speak

Featuring Rakesh Chaurasia

Saturday, November 18 at 8 pm at Royce Hall



Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, Edgar Meyer's As We Speak featuring Rakesh Chaurasia, Image by Sachyn Mital

“Borders blur when Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain and Edgar Meyer make music magic” — San Diego Union Tribune

[LOS ANGELES — October 25, 2023] [UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance \(CAP UCLA\)](#) presents an evening-length performance featuring **Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain and Edgar**

Meyer's *As We Speak* at Royce Hall on Saturday, November 18 at 8 pm. *As We Speak* showcases the breathtaking versatility of virtuoso musicians collaborating across entirely different musical realms — bluegrass for Fleck, Indian classical music for Hussain and Western classical music for Meyer. Rakesh Chaurasia, a master of the bansuri, an Indian bamboo flute, adds to the magic. Tickets start at \$39 and are available now at cap.ucla.edu or 310-825-2101.

As We Speak, the quartet's latest album released in May of 2023, exhibits the group's skills as instrumentalists and covers a wide range of musical influences. The group, with Fleck on the banjo, Hussain on the tabla and Meyer on the bass, offers Indian rhythm and funk with Chaurasia joining on the flute. The performance will include improvisation that covers each artist's various musical genres.

Fleck started his career with the bluegrass group New Grass Revival. He formed the Flecktones, celebrating its 46th anniversary this year, a musical group whose repertoire ranged from fusion to Bach. In addition, he played jazz with Chick Corea, American roots with his partner, banjoist Abigail Washburn, wrote concertos for banjo and orchestra and created a documentary film and album, *Throw Down Your Heart*, that examined the banjo's African roots. Fleck has won 16 Grammys across 10 categories in his career.

Hussain is appreciated as one of the world's most esteemed musicians and a master of his percussion instrument, the tabla. Accompanying India's greatest musicians and dancers from his early years, Hussain has been a part of many collaborations including *Shakti*, *Remember Shakti*, *Masters of Percussion*, *Diga*, *Tabla Beat Science*, *CrossCurrents*, *Sangam* and Grammy-award winners *Planet Drum* and *Global Drum Project*. A composer and educator, Hussain is the recipient of many honors, most recently the 2022 Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy, the 2022 Aga Khan Music Award for Lifetime Achievement and in January 2023, the title of *Padma Vibhushan*, India's second highest civilian award.

Described by *The New Yorker* as "the most remarkable virtuoso in the relatively un-chronicled history of his instrument," double bassist and composer Meyer is skilled in a variety of musical styles. A MacArthur Fellow and Avery Fisher Prize winner, he is most experienced in classical music, performing traditional works and his original solo, chamber and orchestral pieces. His 30-year relationship with cellist Yo-Yo Ma has produced seven recordings and his upcoming projects include a duo recording with jazz bassist Christian McBride and a recording of all four of his concertos with the Knights and the Scottish Ensemble, produced by Chis Thile.

Joining the group at Royce Hall is Chaurasia, a master of the techniques of Indian classical music. A composer as well as flutist, he has written and performed on numerous Indian movie soundtracks and in 2007 was awarded the Indian Music Academy Award.

The CAP UCLA 2023 fall programs continue on December 2 with Alarm Will Sound joined by guest artists Nathalie Joachim and Alyssa Pyper at The Nimoy.

ARTISTS:

Béla Fleck - Banjo
Zakir Hussain - Tabla
Edgar Meyer - Bass
Rakesh Chaurasia - Bansuri

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAP UCLA presents

Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain and Edgar Meyer, featuring Rakesh Chaurasia: *As We Speak*

Saturday, November 18 at 8 pm

Royce Hall

10745 Dickson Ct, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Tickets start at \$39.

Artists' Websites:

[Béla Fleck](#)

[Zakir Hussain](#)

[Edgar Meyer](#)

[Rakesh Chaurasia](#)

ABOUT CAP UCLA

[UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance](#) (CAP UCLA) is the public-facing research and presenting organization for the performing arts at the University of California, Los Angeles—one of the world's leading public research universities. We are housed within the UCLA School of the Arts & Architecture along with the Hammer and Fowler museums. The central pursuit of our work as an organization is to sustain the diversity of contemporary performing artists while celebrating their contributions to culture. We acknowledge, amplify and support artists through major presentations, commissions and creative development initiatives. Our programs offer audiences a direct connection to the ideas, perspectives and concerns of living artists. Through the lens of dance, theater, music, literary arts, digital media arts and collaborative disciplines, informed by diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, artists and audiences come together in our theaters and public spaces to explore new ways of seeing that expands our understanding of the world we live in now.

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IMAGES: An image of Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, Edgar Meyer and Rakesh Chaurasia are available for download [here](#).