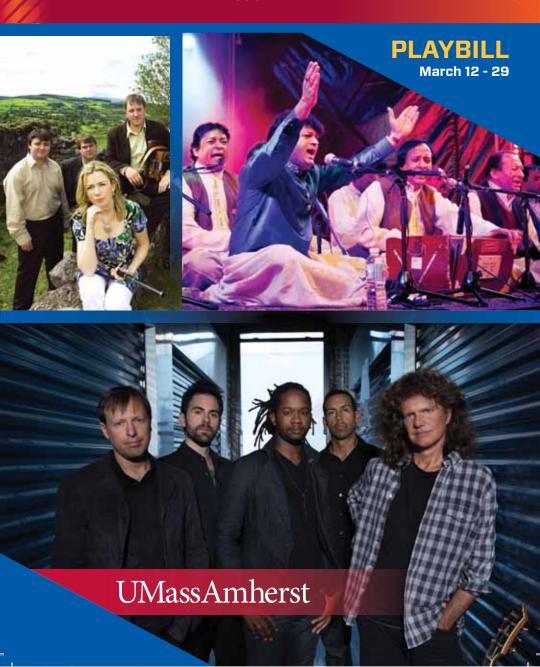
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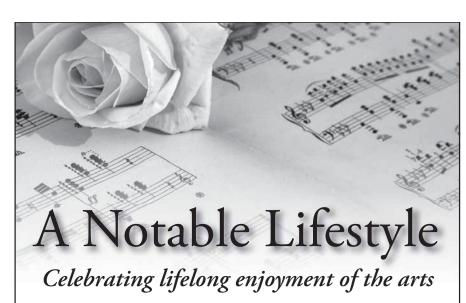
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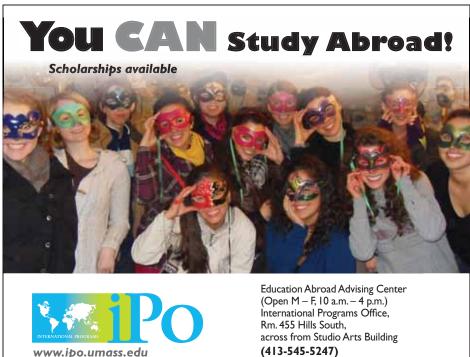
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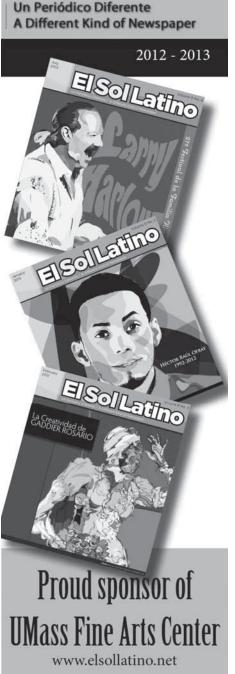
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Oisin McAuley ~ Fiddle and Backing Vocals
Eamon Doorley ~ The Irish Bouzouki
Donal Clancy ~ Guitar, Lead and Backing Vocals
Martin O'Neill ~ Bodhran (Irish Drum)

Repertoire will be selected from the following and announced from the stage:

Clancy's Farewell to Whiskey/An Dro des Petits Bateaux (Instrumental)

Donal Clancy/Traditional/Arranged by Danú

The Highest Hill in Sligo (Instrumental)

Traditional/Arranged by Danú

Cailín na nÚrla Donn (Song) Traditional/Arranged by Danú

Murphy's Hornpipe, Lord Gordon's Reel (Instrumental)

Traditional/Arranged by Danú

The Glen Cottage, John Brosnan's, Peata an Mhaoir (Instrumental)

Traditional/Arranged by Danú

The County Down (Song)
Tommy Sands/Arranged by Danú

Barndance Set/John Doherty's/Round The House (Instrumental)

Traditional/Arranged by Danú

Program is subject to change
There will be a 15 minute intermission

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PROGRAM NOTES

Clancy's Farewell to Whiskey/An Dro des Petits Bateaux

The first tune of this piece was composed by Donal Clancy, the band's guitarist. The second is a beautiful Breton Dance tune that we arranged as a lullaby. We got this from a great musician called Ronan Pellen, from Brittany in France. Brittany is also a Celtic region.

The Highest Hill in Sligo

The first reel comes from Sligo, and the second reel is a composition of Oisin McAuley. We finish the set with a tune called "Reichwalls Forest," a tune we learned from Jerry Holland who lives in Cape Breton in Canada.

Cailín na nÚrla Donn

Learned from Seosaimhín Ní Bheaglaíoch, it is a macaronic song – which means the lyrics are in two languages, Irish and English, in this case. It is often heard in South Kerry.

Murphy's Hornpipe, Lord Gordon's Reel

We have been performing both this hornpipe and reel for many years. Lord Gordon's is a tune often associated with the playing of the great Sligo fiddler Michael Coleman, who recorded it in New York in 1934.

The Glen Cottage, John Brosnan's, Peata an Mhaoir

Irish Polkas are mostly associated with the Munster region in Southern Ireland.

The County Down

The County Down was written by Tommy Sands from Rostrevor in Co. Down. This song was voted Best Song at the 2004 BBC Folk Awards.

Barndance Set/John Doherty's/Round The House (Instrumental)

This is great collection of different dance tune types, a barn dance, into a pipe march and finish on a great reel. These are favourites of the band for a number of years.

Danú has 7 CDs, and a DVD, which are all available in stores or online:

DANÚ DEBUT (CD) 1997, THINK BEFORE YOU THINK (CD) 2000

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED (CD) 2002, THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED (CD) 2003

UP IN THE AIR (CD) 2004, WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE (CD) 2005

ONE NIGHT STAND (DVD) 2005, SEANCHAS (CD) 2010

Visit Danú on the World Wide Web: www.danu.net or www.myspace.com/danuband

Hailing from historic County Waterford, Danú is one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles of today. Their standing room only concerts throughout Ireland are true events featuring high-energy performances and a glorious mix of ancient Irish music and new repertoire.

For over a decade, Danú's virtuosi players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki, and vocals (Irish and English), have performed around the globe and recorded seven critically acclaimed albums. Their live DVD, *One Night Stand*, was filmed at Vicar St. Dublin. Winners of numerous awards from the BBC and Irish Music Magazine, Danú has toured throughout Europe, the Middle East, and North America, with stops at The Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, Symphony Space in New York City, and major concert engagements in the United Kingdom, India, Israel, and across Europe. Danú takes audiences on a musical journey to their native Ireland, offering a moving and memorable concert experience. Danú's popular recordings are available on the Shanachie label and live performances are often broadcast on NPR, the CBC, and the BBC.

- "...a vibrant mix of virtuosity, energy, and empathy" The Washington Post
- "... (Danú) stirs the blood and lifts the heart." Irish Music Magazine
- "...fierce fiddle reels to pensive ballads." The New York Times



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PAT METHENY UNITY GROUP

Pat Metheny, guitar
Antonio Sanchez, drums
Chris Potter, saxophone
Ben Williams, bass
Giulio Carmassi, piano, vocals and horns

Program will be announced from the stage

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PAT METHENY UNITY GROUP: KIN $(\leftarrow \rightarrow)$

The year 2013 has been a banner one for Pat Metheny. After being awarded his 20th Grammy, for *Unity Band*, and the release of his critically acclaimed recording of *Tap: John Zorn's Book of Angels, Vol. 20*, Metheny received word that the readers of *DownBeat* magazine had voted to induct him into its Hall of Fame. Not only is Metheny the youngest member, but he is also only the fourth jazz guitarist to be chosen for that honor, joining Charlie Christian, Django Reinhardt, and Wes Montgomery.

The coming year promises to be equally exciting. As Metheny explains, "The *Unity Band* record and tour was life changing for me, and I really wanted to find a way to keep it going and take it to the next level. One night, I woke up with the tantalizing idea of taking the concept of 'unity' even further. With this next project, I envisioned building a platform capable of addressing the entire spectrum of things I have done over the years, from *Bright Size Life* to *Secret Story*, from my Group projects to the Orchestrion, and more, all in one place." He continues: "With this incredible lineup of musicians—Chris Potter, Ben Williams, Antonio Sanchez, and the addition of multi-instrumentalist Giulio Carmassi—just about anything is possible."

With this mission statement, the scene was set for Metheny to deliver a career-encompassing recording. With the release of $Kin \leftarrow \rightarrow$, Metheny has, not for the first time in his complex and ever-evolving career, re-invented himself.

"The core quartet of Chris, Ben, Antonio, and me played more than 100 concerts over the year that followed the release of our Unity Band record. Over the course of that period, the band became one of those rare combinations of players where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts; it gelled in every way, and that just seemed to beg for expansion and further research." He continues, "Simultaneously, I had been itching to write using more of a lush and orchestrated kind of concept that went beyond the sonic limits of what a straight-ahead quartet might invoke. But I really didn't want to lose the energy, focus, and intensity of what this band had developed. I wanted to take it further. If the first Unity Band record was a thoughtful, black and white documentary of four musicians in a recording studio playing, this record is more like the Technicolor, IMAX version of what a band like this could be—but with that hardcore thing still sitting right in the middle of it all."

Metheny goes on to say, "Writing this music and putting it together for this incredible collection of players and really integrating all of the materials at hand was one of the biggest challenges I have ever undertaken, but hearing the final result on this recording is also one of the most satisfying feelings I have ever had as a musician. And the possibilities that it suggests seem endless to me in the best possible way."

In addition to contributing his usual tenor and soprano saxophone skills, Chris Potter is featured on half a dozen woodwind instruments in the ensemble, while Ben Williams is featured as soloist not only as a traditional acoustic bassist, but also on electric bass and, in one case, trading solos with Potter—showing off his arco bowing technique. Drummer Antonio Sanchez is showcased throughout; as is always Metheny's preference, the drums are front and center on the album, yet there are constant textural surprises coming from the kit as well as a track that begins with Sanchez on cajón leading the charge.

Metheny himself, while often letting his bandmates shine on the compositional vehicles he has designed for them, uses every moment as a soloist to maximum effect. From his powerful opening statement on the leadoff track using his trusty lbanez to create a new guitar texture, to the variety of approaches he brings to the harmonic complexities that proliferate throughout, Metheny's solos contain rare melodic moments that give his improvisations the same indelible gualities that his best compositions have.

Multi-instrumentalist Giulio Carmassi is the new wild card in Metheny's hand this time around. Throughout the album, Carmassi holds the difficult and important role of piano accompanist to this fluent core of players. Metheny wanted to create a sense of richness that went beyond the more traditional quartet sound of the original Unity Band. To this end, in addition to Metheny's own electronic, orchestrionic, and synth orchestrations, Carmassi adds trumpet, French horn, flute, alto sax, recorder, vibraphone, whistling, trombone, and some of the most beautiful and evocative vocals on any Metheny recording.

Each of the first four tracks on the record clocks in at more than 10 minutes, with the opening "On Day One" at nearly a quarter of an hour in length. But these are pieces that are not simply extended improvisational "jams;" they are meticulously detailed and developed structures that remain somewhat impervious to any traditional analysis while also providing inspirational environments for improvisation. There is a constant shifting of forms, time signatures, and pedal



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points along with ever-changing opportunities for the various personalities of each player to shine—sometimes in unexpected ways.

The title track, $Kin \leftarrow \rightarrow$), seems to best capture Metheny's new way of looking at music. Using the elements that make electronic dance music the sound of the streets, Metheny cooks up a brew that incorporates the drama and scope of some of his more sweeping projects with a digital forward-motion, and makes it sound not only exciting, but natural as well.

PAT METHENY

PAT METHENY was born in Lee's Summit, MO on August 12, 1954 into a musical family. Starting on trumpet at the age of 8, Metheny switched to guitar at age 12. By the age of 15, he was working regularly with the best jazz musicians in Kansas City, receiving valuable on-the-bandstand experience at an unusually young age. Metheny first burst onto the international jazz scene in 1974. Over the course of his three-year stint with vibraphone great Gary Burton, the young Missouri native already displayed his soon-to-become trademarked playing style, which blended the loose and flexible articulation customarily reserved for horn players with an advanced rhythmic and harmonic sensibility -a way of playing and improvising that was modern in conception but grounded deeply in the jazz tradition of melody, swing, and the blues. With the release of his first album, Bright Size Life (1975), he reinvented the traditional "jazz guitar" sound for a new generation of players. Throughout his career, Pat Metheny has continued to re-define the genre by utilizing new technology, and constantly working to evolve the improvisational and sonic potential of his instrument.

Metheny's versatility is almost nearly without peer on any instrument. Over the years, he has performed with artists as diverse as Steve Reich to Ornette Coleman to Herbie Hancock to Jim Hall to Milton Nascimento to David Bowie. He has been part of a writing team with keyboardist Lyle Mays for more than twenty years - an association that has been compared to the Lennon/McCartney and Ellington/Strayhorn partnerships by critics and listeners alike. Metheny's body of work includes compositions for solo guitar, small ensembles, electric and acoustic instruments, large orchestras, and ballet pieces, with settings ranging from modern jazz to rock to classical.

As well as being an accomplished musician, Metheny has also participated in the academic arena as a music educator. At 18, he was the youngest teacher ever at the University of Miami. At 19, he became the youngest teacher ever at the Berklee College of Music, where he also received an honorary doctorate more than twenty years later (1996). He has also taught music workshops all over the world, from the Dutch Royal Conservatory to the Thelonius Monk Institute of Jazz to clinics in Asia and South America. He has been a true musical

pioneer in the realm of electronic music, and was one of the very first jazz musicians to treat the synthesizer as a serious musical instrument. Years before the invention of MIDI technology, Metheny was using the Synclavier as a composing tool. He also has been instrumental in the development of several new kinds of guitars, such as the soprano acoustic guitar, the 42-string Pikasso guitar, Ibanez's PM-100 jazz guitar, and a variety of other custom instruments.

It is one thing to attain popularity as a musician, but it is another to receive the kind of acclaim Metheny has garnered from critics and peers. Over the years, Metheny has won countless polls as "Best Jazz Guitarist," and awards including three gold records for (Still Life) Talking, Letter from Home, and Secret Story. He has also won 20 Grammy Awards spread out over a variety of different categories including Best Rock Instrumental, Best Contemporary Jazz Recording, Best Jazz Instrumental Solo, Best Instrumental Composition. The Pat Metheny Group won an unprecedented seven consecutive Grammies for seven consecutive albums. Metheny has spent most of his life on tour, averaging between 120-240 shows a year since 1974. At the time of this writing, he continues to be one of the brightest stars of the jazz community, dedicating time to both his own projects and those of emerging artists and established veterans alike, helping them to reach their audience and realize their own artistic visions. See more at patmetheny.com.

GIULIO CARMASSI

Giulio Carmassi is a multi-instrumentalist, Producer, Arranger and Film Composer, and a member of the Pat Metheny Unity Group (on piano, vocals and horns) and the "Will Lee's Family" (on sax, trumpet, guitar, keys and vocals), with Steve Gadd, Chuck Loeb and Oli Rockberger. He also plays piano with Emmy Rossum, and this year arranged, and played every horn and piano on her new album "Sentimental Journey" for Warner/Reprise. Carmassi has been collaborating or playing with many New York artists including Lew Soloff, Oz Noy, Keith Carlock, Mark Egan, Tim Lafebvre, Bryan Scary, Rocky Bryant, Anne Drummond and François Moutin. He scored the dark comedy "Serial Buddies" with Christopher Lloyd and Maria Menounos, and "Somewhere Tonight" starring John Turturro, and has collaborated

as a multi-instrumentalist with the UK indie rock sensation Ginger Wildheart on his latest project, "Hey Hello." The album has reached #1 on the UK rock charts. He graduated as a classical pianist, record engineer, film composer and director, and he's self-taught on all his other instruments. See more at giuliocarmassi.com.

CHRIS POTTER

A world-class soloist, accomplished composer and formidable bandleader, saxophonist Chris Potter has emerged as a leading light of his generation. Down Beat called him "one of the most studied (and copied) saxophonists on the planet," while Jazz Times identified him as "a figure of international renown." Jazz sax elder statesman Dave Liebman called him simply, "one of the best musicians around," a sentiment shared by the readers of Down Beat, who voted him second only to tenor sax great Sonny Rollins in the magazine's 2008 Readers Poll.

A potent improvisor and the youngest musician ever to win Denmark's Jazzpar Prize, Potter's impressive discography includes 15 albums as a leader, and sideman appearances on over 100 albums. He was nominated for a Grammy Award for his solo work on "In Vogue," a track from Joanne Brackeen's 1999 album Pink Elephant Magic, and was prominently featured on Steely Dan's Grammy-winning album from 2000, Two Against Nature. He has performed or recorded with many of the leading names in jazz, such as Herbie Hancock, Dave Holland, John Scofield, the Mingus Big Band, Jim Hall, Paul Motian, Dave Douglas, Ray Brown and many others.

His most recent recording, Ultrahang, is the culmination thus far of five years' work with his Underground quartet with Adam Rogers on guitar, Craig Taborn on Fender Rhodes, and Nate Smith on drums. Recorded in the studio in January 2009 after extensive touring, it showcases the band at its freewheeling yet cohesive best. See more at chrispottermusic.com.

BEN WILLIAMS

Bassist Benjamin James Williams is a native of Washington, DC. He also performs on electric bass and piano as well. His musical influence is rooted in various genres of music including jazz, hip-hop, R&B, gospel, and classical. Ben is a recent graduate of the Michigan State University School of Music, where he majored in Music Education with an emphasis in Jazz, studying with Rodney Whitaker and Jack Budrow. He plans to pursue a Master's degree in Jazz Studies at the Juilliard School. Ben has won several competitions and scholarship awards. He is a two-time winner of the Fish Middleton Jazz Scholarship Competition at the East Coast Jazz Festival: a two-time winner of

the DC Public School Piano Competition; and a 2002 recipient of the Duke Ellington Society Annual Scholarship Award, Most recently, Ben won first place in the 2005 International Society of Bassists (ISB) competition in the category of jazz. Ben has performed both nationally and internationally with such artists as Wynton Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Mulgrew Miller, Cyrus Chestnut, Ron Blake, Stefon Harris, Karreim Riggins, Hamiett Bluiette, James Williams, Bobby Watson, Winard Harper, Buster Williams, John Hicks, Anthony Wonsey, Me'Shelle N'degeocello, Gene Lake, Wycliffe Gordon, and Delfeavo Marsalis to name a few. He has also performed with opening acts for artists such as John Legend, Kirk Franklin, and Eric Roberson. See more at benwilliamsmusic.net.

ANTONIO SANCHEZ

Antonio Sanchez was born in Mexico City on November 1st, 1971. At age five, he discovered an irresistible attraction toward the drum set. After a few years of private study he started performing in a wide variety of musical situations ranging from rock to jazz and Latin to fusion with several bands in Mexico City's music scene. At age seventeen he enrolled in the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City, where he pursued a degree in classical piano and composition. Besides his instrumental studies he completed courses on traditional harmony, counterpoint, arranging, vocal ensembles and composition while keeping busy with intensive drum practice. In 1993, after four and a half years of study at the Mexican institution, he earned a scholarship to pursue Jazz Studies at Berklee College of Music in Boston. At Berklee he had the chance to study jazz arranging, improvisation, jazz composition, ear training, harmony and solfège, among other music related courses.

In addition to being a member of the Pat Metheny Unity Group, Sanchez is also one-third of Metheny's acoustic trio featuring Christian McBride on bass. He has also performed and recorded in many ensembles led by artists like Michael Brecker, with whom he recorded the album "Wide Angles" (which won a Grammy for the "Best Large Ensemble" in 2004), David Sanchez, (with whom he recorded "Melaza" and "Travesia," which were both Grammy nominated), Charlie Haden, John Patitucci, Chris Potter, Avishai Cohen (he appears on "Colors" and "Unity"), Marcus Robert ("In Honor of Duke"), Dave Samuels, Claudia Acuña, and Luciana Souza among others. Sanchez is endorsed by Yamaha Drums, Zildjian Cymbals and Sticks, Evans Drumheads, and LP Percussion. He currently resides in New York City. See more at antoniosanchez.net.

Saturday, March 29, 2014, 8:00 p.m. Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Chamber Seating

Asif Ali Khan and Party: Sufi Soul

ASIF ALI KHAN QAWWALI ENSEMBLE

Asif Ali Khan, lead vocals
Raza Hussain, harmonium & solo vocals
Sarfraz Hussain, harmonium & solo vocals
Ali Khawar, tabla & chorus
Imtiaz Hussain Shibli, chorus
Waheed Mumtaz Hussain, chorus
Shah Nawaz Hussain, chorus
Manzoor Hussain Shibli, chorus
Umar Draz Hussain, chorus
Road Manager for the Asif Ali Khan U.S. Tour: André Wowconowitcz

Program will be announced from the stage

Asif Ali Khan's tour is made possible by a grant from the Asian Cultural Council to City Lore, a fiscal sponsor for Robert Browning Associates

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PROGRAM

Qawwali is an art that is transmitted orally. The texts of tonight's songs are drawn from ancient Persian Sufi poetry, as well as more recent Punjabi literature. They are sung in Urdu, Punjabi and Farsi. Since songs for a qawwali performance are chosen according to the mood of the artists and their assessment of the audience, there is no set program. Traditionally a performance will begin with a hamd (in praise of God) and continue with a na't-i-sharif (in praise of Mohammad). Then there will be verses dedicated to various Sufi saints. After that the artist's choice of verses is governed by his assessment of the audience, taking particular note of the preferences of any spiritual leader or important person in attendance.

INTRODUCTION

It is the courage of each, it is the power of flight,

Some fly and remain in the garden, some go beyond the stars.

- Amir Khusrau, 13th Century

Americans were first introduced to the ecstatic singing of South Asia known as qawwali in 1975, when the Asia Society organized the first tour of the United States by the famed Sabri Brothers of Pakistan. A subsequent tour in 1978, culminating in a sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall, was greeted with wild enthusiasm by devotees and initiates alike. The tour is commemorated by a recording on the Nonesuch Explorer series that almost exceeded the limit of a long-playing vinyl recording of the time at 52.24 minutes. While the Sabri Brothers and other qawwali ensembles visited the US from time to time, it was not until Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan was invited to perform at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in 1989, and his subsequent residency at the University of Washington in 1992 that qawwali began to be heard again in the US outside the South Asian community. In 1993, a 13-city tour of North America organized by the World Music Institute cemented Nusrat's reputation in the US and helped to build a far wider interest in qawwali.

Qawwali means literally "utterance" in Urdu. The word stems from the Arabic qua'ol meaning an axiom or dictum relating to religious subjects, the recitation of which helps to purify both thought and deed. Associated in particular with the Sufi Chisti Order, it has its origins in the medieval mystical practice of sama' (Arabic: listening, audition). Sama', like zikr (the ceremony of remembrance in which the names of God are repetitively invoked) is an essential vehicle for revelation and union with the divine. Both sama' and zikr may also be seen as instrumental in advancing the great classical music traditions of the Muslim world – the Turko-Arabic maqam and the Persian dastgah – which, in turn, influenced the North Indian raga tradition. Thus, while music as a secular pursuit has largely been condemned by orthodox Islam, for most Sufis it has traditionally been a fundamental prerequisite.

By the end of the 11th century, sama' was a spiritual concert which included sung poetry by a soloist or chorus with instrumental interludes. The concert took place under the direction of a sheikh or pir (religious leader). The faithful participated by listening in a state of inner contemplation, which might lead to a state of trance. The main argument amongst Sufis has centered around the use of music to achieve a state of ecstasy; while some see music as a means to get closer to the Divine, others see musical trance as an end in itself, implying that the state of ecstasy is a manifestation of God.

The art of qawwali, as with most of the great Asian musical and literary traditions, is transmitted orally. The mystical verse associated with qawwali is best appreciated by listening. The vehicle of music is used to bring one closer to the experience of the inner truth. The qawwal will dwell on certain words, often repeating them, taking the audience into the discovery of hitherto obscure meanings. Thus, mundane objects are imbued with deeper meaning – a spinning wheel becomes the wheel of life. Repeating a sentence or phrase until all meaning is exhausted and it becomes meaningless is a means to bring the audience closer to ma'rifat, inner truth. Thus, as with the Buddhist repetition of a mantra, semantic reality is negated and a new truth emerges that transcends linguistic barriers.

Regular participants in qawwali sessions often use the concept of flight or travel to describe their experience. This is a phenomenon well known to shamans and practitioners of religious ceremonies involving trance-like states. This sensation of flight brought about through rhythmic music and chant is known as hal. The manifestation of this ecstatic state can range from a simple swaying of the head or body to violent convulsions. At such times, as, when a member of a congregation at a gospel revival meeting is "possessed by the Holy Spirit," friends

will shield him from harm until he is eased back into a state of "normalcy." The great masters of qawwali are able to move entire audiences to a hal even if they do not understand a single word of the language.

Qawwali texts are taken mostly from the great medieval Persian mystical poets such as Amir Khusrau, Jalal'uddin Rumi and Hafez, as well as Indian saints such as Nizamuddin Auliya (14th century) and popular Punjabi poets such as Bulleh Shah (18th century). While most gawwals are in Urdu or Punjabi, there are others in Persian and regional South Asian languages. Rarely is a complete poem recited; rather the singer will join segments or verses from different poems or add lines from another text to emphasize a point. Each gawwali song has, at its core, a principal poem, often a ghazal. The poem is usually preceded by two introductory parts: an instrumental prelude (naghma) played on the harmonium, and an introductory verse sung solo in a recitative style (ruba'l oor doha). This introduction serves to indicate the topic of the main poem and to get the audience's response. If it is favorable, the gawwal continues with the main poem in the same mode; if not, then he will chant another verse introducing a different poem. The poetry is often allegorical and charged with symbolism. Much of it has a seemingly erotic or romantic nature, but is not intended to be taken literally. Yet the profane world is never denied - for what is human is Divine and what is Divine is human. The frequently used term "Beloved" refers to Divine love (for God or his Prophet, Mohammed). Terms such as "face" and "tresses" signify the spiritual qualities of the master; building a "house" signifies the pursuit of material well-being. Much use is made of the terms "wine" and "tavern": wine refers to the love of God, which intoxicates the initiate, and tavern refers to the spiritual master or sheikh, whose heart is the repository of God's love.

The analogy of qawwali to African-American gospel is valid in more ways than one, for out of both idioms a secular form has evolved. Just as soul music grew out of the music of the African-American church, in recent years qawwali-style music, albeit with different lyrics, can be heard in Bollywood movies, as "disco," or as background music for television shows.

- Robert H. Browning



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THE ARTIST

Asif Ali Khan was born in 1973, the youngest son of Manzoor Hussain, a well-known singer from a famous Pakistani musical family. He traces his musical ancestry back more than 350 years. His great-grandfather Mian Maula Baksh, who was one of the most famous classical singers of the Indian subcontinent, founded his qawwali group more than 80 years ago. After partition in 1947, Asif's grandfather Santoo Khan moved the family to Pakistan, settling in Lahore. Here the group, known at this time as Santoo Khan Qawwal, became extremely popular both for its wide repertoire of classical, spiritual (Sufi) and popular songs, as well as their superb command of the Urdu, Persian and Punjabi languages. The group was one of the first to record qawwali music and was regularly heard on All Pakistan Radio.

Santoo Khan died in the late 1980s whereupon his son Manzoor Hussain took over the leadership. By this time all seven of Manzoor's sons, including Asif Ali, were performing with the group. From his early days as a teenager, Asif was praised for his outstanding vocal qualities. In the early 1990s his father introduced him to the legendary Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, who was acknowledged as Pakistan's greatest qawwali singer of the 20th century. Asif Ali's impeccable diction, brilliant inventiveness and sincerity inured him to the master. He became Nusrat's premier student in 1995 and within a short while took over the vocal leadership of the group from his father. In 1999, he was named "Best Young Pakistani Qawwali" by Lok Versa (National Institute of Folk Heritage of Islamabad). Over the past decade, he has embarked on numerous concert tours in Europe, Asia, Australia and the Middle East while continuing to offer his singing at religious shrines throughout Pakistan. His ensemble appeared at the 2012 Olympics in London, and in 2013 performed at WOMAD festivals in London and Moscow.

Since the death of the world-famous Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan in 1997 there have been many contenders to inherit his place as "Emperor of Qawwali." There is no doubt now that Asif Ali Khan has emerged as the one of the genre's reigning princes. While remaining true to the Punjabi tradition that was Nusrat's hallmark, he has developed a style and presence all of his own.

Asif Ali Khan's Management: ZAMAN PRODUCTION jeanherve@zamanproduction.com Asif Ali Khan's tour has been organized by Robert Browning Associates. Robert Browning was the co-founder of the Alternative Museum and the World Music Institute in New York. Under his direction, these two organizations presented more than 1,800 concerts and organized US tours by some of the most influential artists from Asia, the Middle East and Europe, including Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Masters of Persian Music, and The Gypsy Caravan. www.robertbrowningassociates.com



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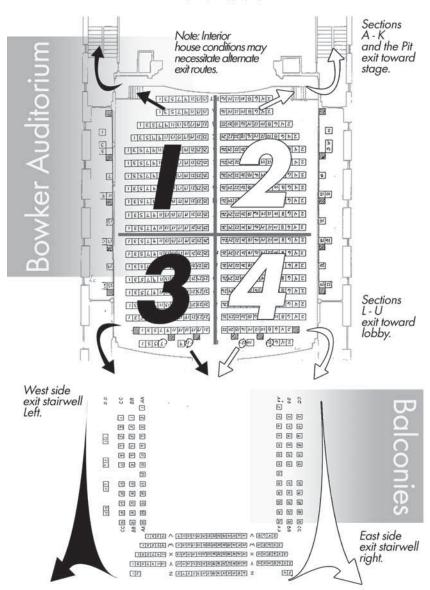
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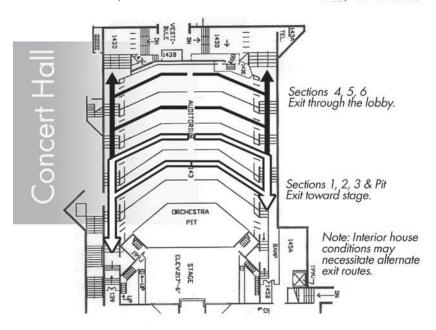
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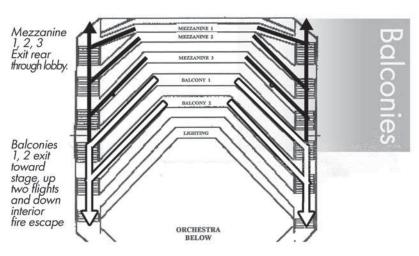
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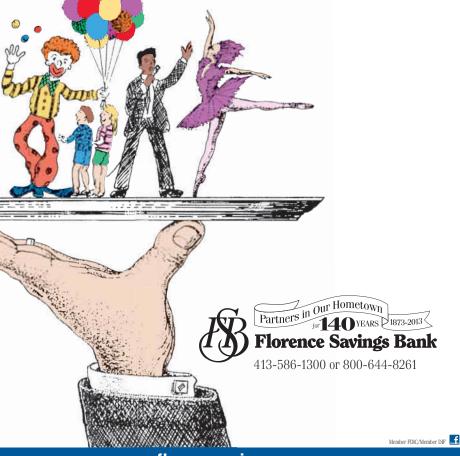
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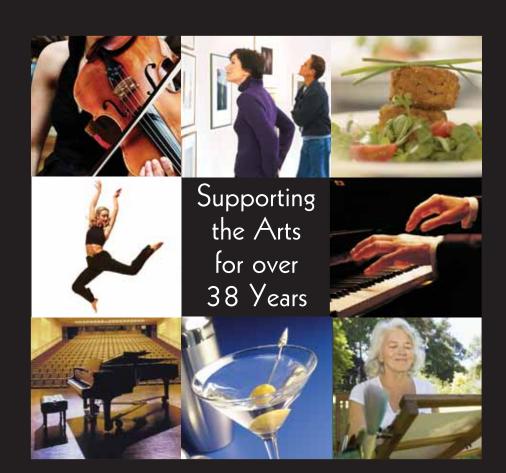


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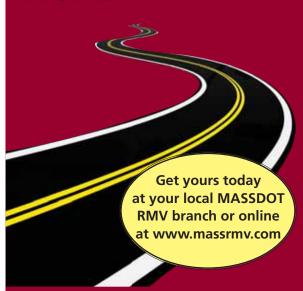


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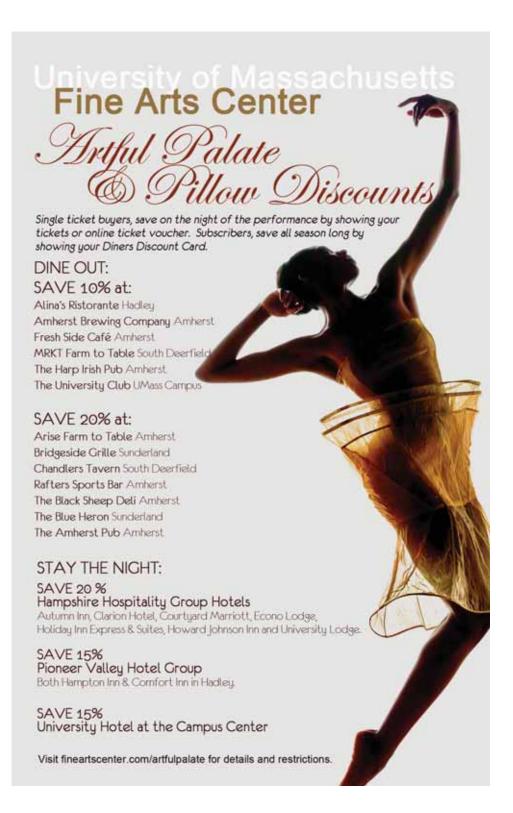
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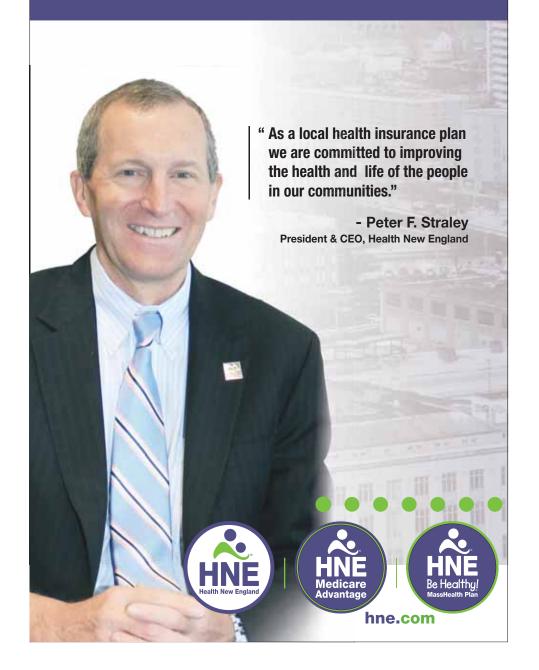
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