

IndiaCurrents

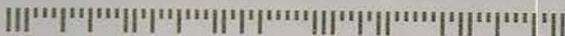
Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence



The Politics of Hate

Anti-Muslim rhetoric, once confined to the fringe elements of American society, is increasingly finding room in mainstream discourse. Is this the bogeyman of the new century?

may 2011 • vol.25, no.2 • www.indiacurrents.com



000001
000002
000524

MATTHEW MONTFORD
PO BOX 264
KENTFIELD, CA. 94914-0264
*****SCH 5-DIGIT 94901

Periodicals Postage
Paid At Hayward, CA.

Ancient Future, Ageless Fusion

Used to be the term world fusion would be enough to draw an audience. Now, after numerous groups from almost every genre and geography have experimented with getting international music artists together (though not necessarily fusing), one is cautious. Who are the artists? Is it a big live experiment on stage, or have they played together before? Are they looking to just be trendy? These are some of the questions that come to mind. On researching the reunion concert by Ancient Future, happily, all the doubts are laid to rest.

Ancient Future is one of the rare bands whose genesis is in world fusion, specifically to create a unified many-genre sound. Says founder Matthew Montfort, "I coined the term 'world fusion music' in the late 1970s because I wanted to create music that would show how ideas from different cultures could be complimentary. The name Ancient Future came about because we are studying ancient traditions and bringing musical knowledge from them into the music of the future."

Media outlets have described Ancient Future presentations as "electric dervish of music" (JAZZIZ), "world music pioneers" (San Francisco Chronicle), and "marvelous rhythmic patterns" (San Francisco Examiner).

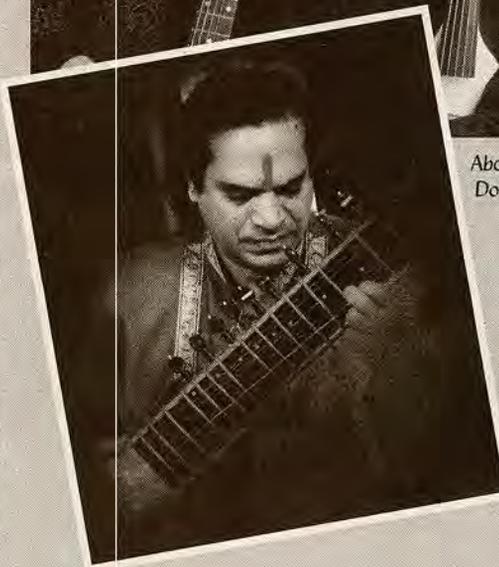
A dedicated guitarist in his high school years, Montfort looked for non-Western traditions, and was introduced to the Diga Rhythm Band featuring Zakir Hussain and Mickey Hart, which opened his eyes to the potential of Indian music. He enrolled full time at the Ali Akbar College of Music to learn the sitar. He devised a scalloped modification to his own fretboard guitar, so he could get some of the note-bends that are more characteristic of the sitar. "Studying with Ali Akbar Khan completely changed my life and my music," says Montfort.

When Ancient Future formed, the mission was simple—to fuse music from all over the world. It started with sound from India but along the years, Ancient Future's recordings have included influence from other world music traditions, including Andean, African, Middle Eastern, and Chinese. Playing with international master musicians such as Russian vocalist Irina Mikhailova, Nepali flautist Manose, and Arabic violist Georges Lammam fostered the mission of creating world fusion music. The composition of the band too changed, to match with the music lineup of the season.

The upcoming concert will reunite



Above, left to right, Matthew Montfort, Jim Hurley, Doug McKeenan, and Ian Dogole. Left, Haibib Khan.



Montfort on scalloped fretboard guitar, Jim Hurley on violin, Doug McKeenan on keyboards, Ian Dogole on percussion, and master musician Habib Khan on sitar. The connection with Khan too goes back a long way, spanning more than 15 years. Montfort was first hired to perform with Khan on several fusion recordings in the '90s, featuring musicians such as tabla master Swapan Chaudhuri and saxophonist Georges Brooks. Since then, the two have collaborated and performed at jugalbandhis (musical face-offs) at numerous venues, including several in India.

Khan plans to play his eclectic song "Socha Socha." "I remember, I was thinking why is a man unhappy," says Khan. "Is he worried for somebody or because of them? On that thought, I set my hand to the sitar, and the whole song took birth right then. The lyr-

ics are in Hindi and go, 'I think of you day and night.' That's where the name comes from," elaborates Khan.

"Every man has his own emotional ethos, and as a musician, I convey mine through music. When you hear the song, you don't just hear the notes, you relate to them, and you identify with my own emotions as well. That is when music comes to life—the process touches me."

Interestingly, the band will be playing a teaser version of the same lineup at the same venue almost two decades later. The last time they played at Todos Santos Plaza in Concord was in 1992. The concert in San Francisco will have the full lineup, with the sound reminiscent of the silk-smooth Shakti by Zakir Hussain and group, especially in Hurley's "Lakshmi Rocks Me." Montfort's "GamaRock" has whiffs of India and flower-power. Dogole's "Mezgoof" is based on the qawwali style. McKeenan's drama in "Turkish Taffy" will appeal to the Bollywood soul. Song samples available at www.ancient-future.com. ■—Priya Das

Lunch-hour "teaser" show, Tuesday, June 7, 12 p.m. Todos Santos Plaza, Concord.

Feature show, Tuesday, June 7, 8 p.m., Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco. \$16 advance, \$20 at door. (415) 655-5600. www.yoshis.com/sanfrancisco.



Search

go

CALENDAR

Place Listing

Cultural

Spiritual

Yoga

Event Previews

ESSAYS

Bottom Line

Desi Voices

Personal Items

Reflections

Youth

PROFILES

In Focus

Not for Profit

People

Q & A

ARTS

Books

Fiction

Films

Music

Performing Arts

LIFESTYLE

Business

Dear Doctor

The Healthy Life

Household Hints

Recipes

Travel

CLASSIFIEDS

Read Classifieds

Place Classifieds

LETTERS

ARCHIVES



Ancient Future, Ageless Fusion

PRIYA DAS, Apr 27, 2011

Used to be the term world fusion would be enough to draw an audience. Now, after numerous groups from almost every genre and geography have experimented with getting international music artists together (though not necessarily fusing), one is cautious. Who are the artists? Is it a big live experiment on stage, or have they played together before? Are they looking to just be trendy? These are some of the questions that come to mind. On researching the reunion concert by Ancient Future, happily, all the doubts are laid to rest.



show how ideas from different cultures could be complimentary. The name Ancient Future came about because we are studying ancient traditions and bringing musical knowledge from them into the music of the future."

Media outlets have described Ancient Future presentations as "electric dervish of music" (JAZZIZ), "world music pioneers" (San Francisco Chronicle), and "marvelous rhythmic patterns" (San Francisco Examiner).

A dedicated guitarist in his high school years, Montfort looked for non-Western traditions, and was introduced to the Diga Rhythm Band featuring Zakir Hussain and Mickey Hart, which opened his eyes to the potential of Indian music. He enrolled full time at the Ali Akbar College of Music to learn the sitar. He devised a scalloped modification to his own fretboard guitar, so he could get some of the note-bends that are more characteristic of the sitar. "Studying with Ali Akbar Khan completely changed my life and my music," says Montfort.

When Ancient Future formed, the mission was simple—to fuse music from all over the world. It started with sound from India but along the years, Ancient Future's recordings have included influence from other world music traditions, including Andean, African, Middle Eastern, and Chinese. Playing with international master musicians such as Russian vocalist Irina Mikhailova, Nepali flautist Manose, and Arabic violist Georges Lammam fostered the mission of creating world fusion music. The composition of the band too changed, to match with the music lineup

Ancient Future is one of the rare bands whose genesis is in world fusion, specifically to create a unified many-genre sound. Says founder Matthew Montfort, "I coined the term 'world fusion music' in the late 1970s because I wanted to create music that would


Home Loans
408.829.0041
NIRMALYA MODAK


Only Almighty's Mercy
can end sufferings,
seek nothing
but his mercy
www.babanurellah.com

IWE IWEUSA.ORG
INDIAN AMERICAN
WOMEN EMPOWERED

[Advertise here](#)


The right choice

Airfare
Vacation
Car
Hotel
Cruise
&
Travel
Insurance

[Click here](#)
For more details

Call
(213) 629-1800
Email
info@travelspring.com


The right choice

[Advertise here](#)

of the season.

The upcoming concert will reunite Montfort on scalloped fretboard guitar, Jim Hurley on violin, Doug McKeehan on keyboards, Ian Dogole on percussion, and master musician Habib Khan on sitar. The connection with Khan too goes back a long way, spanning more than 15 years. Montfort was first hired to perform with Khan on several fusion recordings in the '90s, featuring musicians such as tabla master Swapan Chaudhuri and saxophonist Georges Brooks. Since then, the two have collaborated and performed at jugalbandhis (musical face-offs) at numerous venues, including several in India.

Khan plans to play his eclectic song "Socha Socha." "I remember, I was thinking why is a man unhappy," says Khan. "Is he worried for somebody or because of them? On that thought, I set my hand to the sitar, and the whole song took birth right then. The lyrics are in Hindi and go, 'I think of you day and night.' That's where the name comes from," elaborates Khan.



"Every man has his own emotional ethos, and as a musician, I convey mine through music. When you hear the song, you don't just hear the notes, you relate to them, and you identify with my own emotions as well. That is when music comes to life—the process touches me."

Interestingly, the band will be playing a teaser version of the same lineup at the same venue almost two decades later. The last time they played at Todos Santos Plaza in Concord was in 1992. The concert in San Francisco will have the full lineup, with the sound reminiscent of the silk-smooth Shakti by Zakir Hussain and group, especially in Hurley's "Lakshmi Rocks Me." Montfort's "GamaRock" has whiffs of India and flower-power. Dogole's "Mezgoof" is based on the qawwali style. McKeehan's drama in "Turkish Taffy" will appeal to the Bollywood soul. Song samples available at www.ancient-future.com.

Lunch-hour "teaser" show, Tuesday, June 7, 12 p.m. Todos Santos Plaza, Concord.

Feature show, Tuesday, June 7, 8 p.m., Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco. \$16 advance, \$20 at door. (415) 655-5600. www.yoshis.com/sanfrancisco.

Page 1 of 1

This article has been placed in the category(s) below:



[Send this article to a friend](#)

 [Sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter](#)



Indian Cruise to Mexico

July 17 to July 24
2011
(Sunday to Sunday)

Sail aboard
Carnival
Splendor to
Mexico from
Long Beach
California

For more offers

[Click Here](#)

