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<http://www.MondaviArts.org/press>

For immediate release:

Mickey Hart's Global Drum Project to Play Mondavi Center

September 8, 2008; Davis, California—Back in 1968, when **Mickey Hart** was a member of an up-and-coming San Francisco rock band called the **Grateful Dead**, the young drummer met **Ravi Shankar**'s tabla player **Allah Rakha**. It was the beginning of a long, strange trip for Hart, who, in addition to spending more than two decades with the Dead, would go on to a far-ranging exploration of percussion traditions from around the world that included lessons from Rakha and a series of projects with **Zakir Hussain**, Rakha's son. Next month, Hart and Hussain will reunite with participants from one of their most memorable collaborations, the Grammy Award-winning *Planet Drum* CD, performing with **Sikiru Adepoju** and **Giovanni Hidalgo** as the **Global Drum Project** at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**.

The event will begin at 8 pm on October 8 in the Mondavi Center's Jackson Hall on the UC Davis campus. Tickets are available from the Mondavi Center Ticket Office at 530.754.ARTS (2787) or online at MondaviArts.org. The event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center's **World Stage** series.

Mickey Hart will also participate in *Mind Over Music*, a **Forum@MC** panel discussion about "peak experience" in music including **Petr Janata**, UC Davis assistant professor of Psychology, and moderated by **Jeffrey Callison**, host of *Insight* on 90.9 KXJZ. The discussion will begin at 5 pm on October 8 in the Mondavi Center's Studio Theatre. As with all **Forum@MC** events, admission is free.

Global Drum Project brings together the four principles—Hart, Hussain, Adepoju, and Hidalgo—from the *Planet Drum* recording sessions to continue their rhythmic explorations with the help of new technology that enables them to spontaneously change the tone of a given percussion instrument to sound like a piano, guitar, or virtually anything else. For Hart, the reunion tour is an opportunity to take the ideas that spawned *Planet Drum* to new places.

Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis

“This is a deep drumming groove,” Hart has said. “We’re taking the archaic rhythm worlds into outer space. It’s a sound yoga of processed acoustic percussion headed straight for the trance zone that becomes a dance of ancient and modern worlds. Deep drumming is a skeleton key into these realms.”

As a former member of one of the most long-lived and best-loved rock groups to emerge from the San Francisco Bay Area during the 1960s, it’s likely that Hart will forever be best-known for his work with the Grateful Dead. (Hart joined the band in 1967, took a sabbatical from 1971-74, then remained in the group until its dissolution in 1995 following the death of guitarist **Jerry Garcia**.) Hart shared drumming duties in the Dead with **Bill Kreutzmann**, and the percussion duets performed by the pair formed the centerpiece of many concerts. Inspired by these open-ended opportunities for improvisation, Hart began to investigate rhythms and drumming traditions from Africa, India, and other parts of the world, and to incorporate ideas from them into his work with the Dead.

Like many members of the group, Hart also worked in a number of musical side projects. His studies with Allah Rakha led to collaborations with Hussain including the **Diga Rhythm Band**, a gamelan-influenced percussion ensemble made up primarily of students at the Ali Akbar Khan School of Music, which released an album in 1976. During the late 1970s, he also worked with Kreutzmann in the percussion group **Rhythm Devils**, which made memorable contributions to the soundtrack of **Francis Ford Coppola**’s Academy Award-winning film *Apocalypse Now*. Hart’s ongoing investigations of world music traditions made him something of an expert on the socio-cultural history of percussion, and he wrote a series of books on drumming and ethnomusicology including *Drumming at the Edge of Magic*; *Planet Drum: A Celebration of Percussion and Rhythm*; and *Songcatchers: In Search of the World’s Music*.

The *Planet Drum* recording, released in 1991, was intended as a kind of a “percussion summit” including master musicians from a variety of traditions and cultures. The recording sessions brought together Nigerian legend **Babatunde Olatunji** and his protégé Adepoju; the Brazilian duo of **Airto Moreira** and **Flora Purim**, perhaps best-known for their contributions to seminal jazz-rock recordings by **Miles Davis** and **Weather Report**; Latin percussionist Hidalgo; and Indian tabla master Hussain and his associate **T.H. “Vikku” Vinayakram**. The CD was a resounding success, garnering the first-ever Grammy Award in the Best World Music Album category and topping *Billboard* magazine’s World Music charts for 26 weeks.

“The *Global Drum Project* CD includes eight unclassifiable tracks that take the listener on a luscious sonic trip into Hart, Hussain, and company’s trancelike ‘deep drumming,’” wrote the *San Francisco Chronicle*. “Geography and culture lose definition in a vast and spectacular soundscape rife with references (“Funky Zena” is built on the pentatonic scale used in Indonesian gamelan) and tantalizing samples.”

“Mickey Hart’s Global Drum Project brings together world music traditions from India, Africa, Indonesia, and beyond with new technologies that vastly expand the percussion ensemble’s sonic palette,” said **Don Roth**, the Mondavi Center’s executive director. “We look forward to an exciting performance.”

Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis

What: **Global Drum Project**
When: Wednesday, October 8 ▪ 8 pm
Where: Jackson Hall
 Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts
 University of California, Davis
Admission: \$45/\$35/\$25 Adults • \$22.50/\$17.50/\$12.50 Students, Children
Tickets/Info: 530.754.2787
 866.754.2787 (toll-free)
 <http://www.MondaviArts.org>
 530.754.5402 [TDD]

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