

For Immediate Release: Friday, April 4, 2008



Montalvo Arts Center Presents...

Debashish Bhattacharya

Friday, April 25, 2008

Montalvo Arts Center – Carriage House Theatre, 15400 Montalvo Road, Saratoga, Calif.

Doors: 7:00 p.m. Show: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$25: Ticket Info: 408.961.5858, www.ticketmaster.com

“Bhattacharya takes the listener to a place of deep emotional expression beyond the boundaries of time.” –*Acoustic Guitar Magazine*

“Pandit (master) Debashish Bhattacharya is one of the world's most remarkable slide guitarists and this album represents the culmination of a lifetime of intensive study, performance and innovation. *Calcutta Slide-Guitar* dazzles the listener with hypnotic patterns and stunning music shaped from Debashish's original three-finger picking technique.” –*Songlines Magazine (UK)*

“*Calcutta Slide-Guitar* maintains an air of inventive dignity throughout.” –*Sing Out!*

“The sheer range of sound - not to mention the fluency of his playing - makes for rewarding listening. Building to passages of stunningly sinuous artistry, this music is imbued at every turn with that disconcerting proximity of the spiritual and the sensual.” –*The Daily Telegraph*

On April 25, internationally renowned Indian slide guitarist **Debashish Bhattacharya** will perform a rare show at Montalvo Arts Center's Carriage House Theatre in Saratoga, Calif. The award-winning guitarist will perform selections from his *Calcutta Slide Guitar, Vol. 3* (Riverboat, 2005), a recording *Guitar Player Magazine* hailed as being “inspired and unique,” and that features his “extraordinarily complex and nuanced microtonal slide runs with breathtaking speed, accuracy, and beauty.” Please be sure to include this event in your listings and “Critics' Choices.” Photos are available upon request.

Born into a musical family, Debashish Bhattacharya is simply a music prodigy. He sang before he spoke, discovered his father's Hawai'iian lap steel guitar at the age of three, and at four, he made his debut on **All India Radio** with the late **Ustad Karamatullah Khan** accompanying him on tabla. With his parents' blessing, nine-year-old Bhattacharya left home for a decade-long study with pioneering Indian guitarist **Pandit Brij Bhushan Kabra**, the “**Godfather of Indian Classical Guitar**.” At 20 Bhattacharya received the **President of India Award** for winning the **National Music Competition** of All India Radio, and in his 30s he was awarded the **Top Grade**, the ultimate honor by the **Prasar Bharati Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of India**.

The young master early on devised his own three-fingered playing style, and built exceptionally innovative instruments to best suite his unique compositions and finger-picking technique. His “Trinity of Guitars” is the Anandi, a tiny, uke-sized soprano guitar; the Chaturangui, a guitar with 22 strings, most of which are resonating strings; and the 14-stringed Gandharvi. Ethnomusicologist **Bob Brozman** refers to the fine instruments as “the new arms and ammunitions to fight against ignorance.” Bhattacharya's *Calcutta Slide Guitar, Vol. 3* was widely praised by critics, and has helped further establish Debashish Bhattacharya as one of the world's foremost slide players. *Jazzwise* called it “a milestone in musically nutritious improvised music,” and *PopMatters.com* affirmed that while Bhattacharya honors traditional music forms, “the music's anything but stale, the performance is fresh.” *Guitar Player Magazine* also “wholeheartedly recommend[s] this wonderful disc” for those who “are a fan of unusual guitar tones and techniques, a slide player in search of otherworldly inspiration, or simply an Indian music enthusiast looking for something different.”

Embraced by both Indian music fans as well as pundits of classical, jazz, blues and folk, Bhattacharya's compositions have been described by the *New York Times* as songs that “evol[e] from reflective melody to fast, flamboyant, tabla-driven improvisations... and every so often, [include] a hint of deep Delta twang.” Bhattacharya has been featured on radio and television outlets throughout India, Greece, South Africa, Holland, Switzerland, Canada, the U.S. and the U.K. In 2005, he won an **Asiatic Society Gold Medal**, followed by a **BBC Planet Award** for World Music in 2007. Bhattacharya has collaborated with several globally renowned maestros including **Zakir Hussain**, **John McLaughlin**, **Bob Brozman**, **Rene Lacaille** and many others.

Nestled in the Saratoga hills, Montalvo Arts Center is a member-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to capturing the innovative and diverse spirit of Silicon Valley and engaging people in contemporary concerns through the arts. For more information please visit www.montalvoarts.org.

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