

# **COMMON CHORDS**

***SALMAN AHMAD & SAMIR CHATTERJEE of the internationally acclaimed SUFI rock group JUNOON will perform at SDSU with YALE STROM, the world's leading artist-ethnographer of klezmer music and culture (and SDSU Artist-in-Residence) and his band Hot Pstromi in "COMMON CHORDS"***

***The concert will take place at San Diego State University at Smith Recital Hall (M101) at 7pm on October 28<sup>h</sup>. Admission is free to students and faculty with I.D. and \$10.00 for the general public.***

**"COMMON CHORDS"** will feature the Pakistani rock star **Salman Ahmad** (guitar) and world class virtuoso tabla player **Samir Chatterjee** in concert with **Yale Strom** (and members of his band Hot Pstromi: Tripp Sprai, Mark Dresser and Elizabeth Schwartz). This will concert celebrate the common roots of Muslim and Jewish music.

Salman Ahmad (a trained physician) formed his band Junoon in 1990 (They played at the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony in Oslo Dec. 2007). Since then, Junoon has become a phenomenon on the South Asian music scene and beyond, having sold over 25 million CDs. Junoon was the first rock band to be invited to perform at the U.N. General Assembly in 2001 by former U.N. Secretary Kofi Annan. Ahmad has combined Sufi poetry, Qawaali singing and improvisation with rock music and has used his popularity to promote humanitarian efforts throughout the world. As a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations, one of his main goals is to foster mutual respect and understanding between Muslims and Jews by bringing these two groups of people together in concert settings. Through his dialogue, poetry and music, he demonstrates the many mutual "common chords" (especially music) these two ancient civilizations share.

Strom and Ahmad first performed together in February 2007 at Queens College in NYC as part of a large exhibit called "The Grandeur of Islamic Art in Image and

*Object." After the concert, they realized how powerful their jamming together onstage, as Jew and Muslim, was for the audience. They decided then to continue these musical dialogues across the country, hoping to demonstrate and foster positive and constructive conversations between people from all walks of life. These great artists and friends now bring this spiritual and musical energy to San Diego State.*

*Jon Pareles of The New York Times wrote: "Junoon is South Asia's answer to Santana*

*"Time Magazine: "Rock and Sufi rapture"*

This event is sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies, the Religious Studies Department, the Daniel Pearl Foundation Music Month. For parking information, go to **<http://www.music.sdsu.edu>** and click on Parking Information for the closest lots. For more information on the event please email [lbaron@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:lbaron@mail.sdsu.edu)