

World Fusion Music Jam & Dinner Percussion Playshop Party

Led by Matthew Montfort (scalloped fretboard & fretless guitars) with Special Guest Patti Weiss (violin)



Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 7:30

Peña Pachamama

1630 Powell near Union

San Francisco CA 94133

Tix: \$10. \$12 if no food is ordered. Info: 415-646-0018

www.penapachamama.com

Ancient Future leader and world music for guitar pioneer Matthew Montfort will lead a world fusion jam on both the scalloped fretboard guitar, a special modified instrument able to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar, and on a Godin Glissentar, an 11 string fretless guitar based on the oud. Guest artist Patti Weiss will join him on violin.

The show will begin with a 'Dinner Percussion Playshop Party' in which Montfort will instruct and encourage members of the audience who are so inclined to perform simple rhythms from his book, *Ancient Traditions – Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali, and India*, using dinner utensils and body percussion. The best playshop participants may be chosen to perform in the world fusion jam later in the evening. Musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments.

As leader of the world music group Ancient Future, Matthew Montfort has devoted himself to the scalloped fretboard guitar since 1978. Featured in the December 2009 commemorative Les Paul issue of *Guitar Player Magazine*, Montfort is a pioneer among guitarists who have had their fretboards scalloped in order to play various forms of world music that require intricate note-bending ornaments while still being able to play chords.

"This unusual guitar album brings together world instruments to complement the scalloped fretboard guitar. 'In late 1978 luthier Ervin Somogyi carved out the wood between the frets so that the pads of Montfort's fingers touch only the strings, reducing friction while he bends them to produce ornaments more characteristic of the sitar.' I must admit that sometimes ragas played by guitar players seem to wander on forever, changing a note here and there and weaving a kind of slow, hypnotic journey. However, this guitar work is stunning, intricate and wonderfully melodic. If you are looking for good listening and something different for your CD shelf, this is it." — J.W. McClure, VICTORY REVIEW ACOUSTIC MUSIC MAGAZINE

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RIFFS



**MATTHEW MONTFORT'S
"PURPLE RAGA"**

"IN MY JUNIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL I made a conscious decision to devote myself to music that fused ideas from various world traditions," says Ancient Future's Matthew Montfort. To that end, Montfort attended the Ali Akbar College of Music in San Rafael, California, in 1977, and studied with South Indian vina master K.S. Subramanian. He also modified his guitar to better accommodate the techniques he was learning. "The vina has frets similar to a scalloped-fretboard guitar," explains Montfort. "And Subramanian taught me many techniques of pulling the



strings across the frets to create the various note-bending ornaments, which are often combined in very involved ways." Sometimes, the various world traditions Montfort works with include his own. "I began to think about the intersection between raga and the music of Jimi Hendrix after seeing a photograph of Jimi in the front row of an Indian music concert, his mouth agape in awe of what he was experiencing," he says. "Then one day a student of mine was having difficulty improvising over the chord changes in "Purple Haze," and I had the idea that the techniques learned by studying

Indian music would help my student to improvise more effectively. Visit guitarplayer.com to watch Montfort demonstrating the raga he devised from the "Purple Haze" solo, and read the accompanying lesson. —Barry Cleveland

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