

# ANCIENT FUTURE: ONE BAND-MANY FLAVORS

"Rolling Stones of fusion." - THE BEAT

## WORLD FUSION MUSIC

Ancient Future is the first and longest running musical organization dedicated exclusively to the mission of creating *world fusion music*. The term was coined by bandleader Matthew Montfort in 1978 to describe Ancient Future's unusual blend of musical traditions from around the world. **BILLBOARD** calls the group "trendsetters" for their early contributions to the movement, which seeks to show how people from different cultures can grow by learning from each other.

World fusion is more of a process than a genre. It is a process by which new traditions are created, and has been going on throughout history. It would be difficult to find a form of traditional music that has not at some time been influenced by the music of another culture. But current times offer the opportunity for musicians to learn music from anywhere on earth. It is the mission of Ancient Future to explore this new sonic territory while shining a light on the ancient musical knowledge of the world.



"The time has definitely come for world fusion music. Ancient Future is one step ahead of the game; on their side is the philosophical parallel between global consonance and world peace." –SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL“

Laying the groundwork for some of today's most successful world beat acts, Ancient Future has grown into a global village of musicians...from Africa, India, Asia, America and the Middle East. The tunes included are diverse, yet equally captivating, evoking all that is most appealing about music from a global village.” –CD NOW

"Northern California's ... 'world fusion' band do more than simply throw together players and instruments from East and West. They rebuild at the sub-molecular level, puréeing the varied melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic idioms into tuneful ... compositions." –GUITAR PLAYER

## ONE BAND-MANY FLAVORS

Over the years, Ancient Future has expanded its musical vision through collaborations with master musicians from more than two dozen countries, cultures, and musical traditions who are now an integral part of what is today more than just a band. Ancient Future has grown to become a large multinational music ensemble with many smaller ensembles within it, enabling Ancient Future to realize its core mission of creating world fusion music. Through cross cultural exchange, Ancient Future has created a musical world without borders.

## WORLD TRADITIONS

The preservation of the world's great traditions is vital to the world fusion music movement. With that in mind, Ancient Future also presents traditional music from the cultures of the individual master musicians who perform with the band. This provides an educational experience for the audience that excites people about world traditions and then shows how those traditions can make contemporary culture richer.

# PLANET JAMMIN' WORLD MUSIC & DANCE COLLABORATION CONCERTS

The Planet Jammin' World Music and Dance Collaboration Concerts are offered as a vehicle for audiences to experience both the results of Ancient Future's core mission and some of the traditional music that their music is based on. Many configurations of Ancient Future are available, with one perfect for your event, be it a fine arts program, festival, dance, or educational experience:

## MUSIC FOR DANCE...



**Arab Dance:** Master American and Arabic musicians play Arabic dance grooves in this version of Ancient Future including Georges Lammam (Arabic violin), Matthew Montfort (scalped fretboard guitar), Salaheddin Takesh (Arabic percussion), and Doug McKeehan (piano, keyboards). The ensemble is also available with a dancer specializing in Middle Eastern and other world dance forms. (Video 1:41, audio 1,2, & 3).



**Organic Trance:** Experience 100% loop-free organic dance grooves! Matthew Montfort plays a raga he discovered based

on the melodic elements of the guitar solo from Jimi Hendrix's Purple Haze. Salaheddin Takesh lays down irresistible Arabic grooves for dancing. Alan Tower holds down the bottom with moving didjeridu bass lines. "Your show was truly amazing. I was blown away with the unusual worldly guitar playing, the earthy grooves, and the full sound of the band with didj bass. It is so much more fun dancing to the music that you made just for us in the moment than it is dancing to canned techno grooves. Next time, I hope they put the organic grooves in a bigger room so everyone who wants to can dance!." --Groove Garden dance fan, 12/6/2003. (Audio 3 & 5).



**Asian Fusion:** Ancient Future's Asian fusion dance mix ensemble features Bui Huu Nhut (dan bau, a Vietnamese instrument with one string) and Zhao Hui (gu zheng, the Chinese ancestor of the Japanese koto) with a monster rhythm section playing 100% organic loop-free grooves. This ensemble is featured on two Putumayo samplers: *Asian Lounge* (contemporary Asian-flavored dance music released in November, 2005) and the best selling *Music from the Tea Lands*. (Video 11:42, audio 4).



**Slavic Trance:** Dance to 100% loop-free organic world trance grooves played live by master musicians and fronted by Irina Mikhailova (Eastern European vocals). This ensemble is quite popular at dances and festivals as an organic alternative to techno. The ensemble was a dance favorite at the Harmony Festival's Techno Tribal Dance, where they debuted new material with Irina singing in English in addition to her native Russian language. (Video 6:22 & 9:01, audio 6).

## FINE ARTS PROGRAMMING...



**Espana Trio:** This version of the band Ancient Future concentrates on Arabic, Indian, and Spanish themes. They performed in Spain at the 2003 Festival Internacional de la Guitarra in Salau, to rave reviews of the guitar work of Matthew Montfort, a pioneer of the scalped fretboard guitar. On the strength of the guitar festival performance, they were invited back to perform at the 2005 Festival Internacional de Guitarra in Sant Carles de la Ràpita. The group is available for performances in Europe with reduced travel costs because some of the musicians reside there most of the year. The trio includes Matthew Montfort (scalped fretboard guitar), Tapan Bhattacharya (Spain's top tabla master), and Mariah Parker (santur, piano). (Audio 10).



**Sitar/Guitar Jugalbandi:** Jugalbandi is a classical North Indian musical duet (literally "tied together"), in this case with the unusual configuration of sitar and guitar accompanied by tabla. Pandit Habib Khan (sitar) and Matthew Montfort (scalped fretboard guitar) have enthralled audiences from St. Louis, Missouri, to Beirut, Lebanon. Matthew Montfort specializes in performing Indian classical music on the scalped fretboard guitar. This jugalbandi works so well because Matthew Montfort is a guitarist with knowledge of sitar and Pandit Habib Khan has been described as the "Jimi Hendrix of the sitar" by L'ORIENT LE JOUR, Beirut's French language newspaper. (Video 4:20, audio 8).



**Celtic Raga:** Strains of Middle Eastern, Indian raga, and Celtic music emanate from this duet featuring Matthew Montfort (scalped fretboard guitar). This duet rocked the Summer of Love 30th Anniversary Celebration in San Francisco (CNN reported a police crowd estimate of 35,000). Footage of their performance was shown on news channels, and the SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER wrote: "It was heartwarming to see teenage girls in swirling dresses swaying and twirling to the Indian themes (almost like morning ragas) of Ancient Future." (Video 11:56, audio 11).



**Himalyan Wind:** Nepali flute master Manose is widely recognized as Nepal's premiere flautist. He is the recipient of national awards including Nepali Instrumentalist of the Year. This ensemble featuring him performs Nepali folk music, Indian raga, and contemporary world fusion. They have performed at the Trinity Tribal Stomp, Caspar World Music Festival, Himalayan Fair, and the Petaluma World Music Lecture Series. (Audio 12).

## JAZZ & WORLD MUSIC FESTIVALS...



**Indian Jazz:** Pandit Habib Khan (sitar) and Ancient Future perform Indian music with jazz influences from Habib Khan and Ancient Future CDs which have been released on major jazz labels in India. The band is in demand internationally with shows in Lebanon (August, 2000) and throughout India (January, 2006). A promo CD with a jazz focus is available upon request. (Video 9:55, audio 7).



**World Jazz (Classic Core 4):** This core rhythm section was involved in five of seven Ancient Future studio CDs. Dreamchaser, the first major label release by this classic fourth version of Ancient Future, debuted at #2 on the JAZZIZ National Airplay Chart. They have performed hundreds of concerts throughout the USA at venues such as the San Francisco Jazz Festival, Valhalla Jazz Festival, Carnegie Recital Hall, and Sand Harbor. A promo CD with a jazz focus is available upon request. (Video 1:24, audio 9).



**World Jazz (Matt & Patti 3):** This trio featuring Matthew Montfort (scalped fretboard guitar), Patti Weiss (violin), and Arshad Syed (tabla) focuses on trio versions of the full repertoire from Ancient Future's recordings. It is a great choice for intimate concerts or outdoor events because of its wide range from raga rock to modal jazz. A promo CD with a jazz focus is available upon request. (Audio 9).



**Chi Music:** Ancient Future's fusion of Chinese and other world music forms features Liu Qi-Chao (virtuoso performer on Chinese wind, string, and percussion instruments; jazz composer) and Zhao Hui (Chinese gu zheng master). The repertoire of this ensemble variation of Ancient Future includes Asian jazz, ancient Chinese music, and contemporary compositions. A promo CD with a jazz focus is available upon request. (Video 11:42, audio 13).



**Ancient Future Planet Jammin' Quintet:** Within the quintet are five ensembles: the Indian Jazz Quartet featuring Pandit Habib Khan (sitar), Slavic Trance featuring Irina Mikhailova (Eastern European vocals), Celtic Raga featuring Matthew Montfort (scalped fretboard guitar), the Sitar/Guitar Jugalbandi with Khan and Montfort, and the full quintet. With one booking, presenters can program five concerts. (Video 4:20 & 9:01, audio 6,7,8, & 11).

## TRADITIONAL MUSIC PROGRAMS...



**Chinese Music Duet:** This duet specializes in entertaining, yet educational, programs showing both the traditional music of China and the many possibilities for integrating this ancient knowledge into contemporary culture. Zhao Hui began her studies of the gu zheng (a Chinese zither that is the ancestor to the Japanese koto) at the age of six, and won first place in China's National Classical Instrumentalist Contest. As a recording artist for Beijing Television Productions, she has made solo gu zheng recordings. She is joined by Matthew Montfort, who shows how the scalped fretboard guitar is capable of performing traditional Chinese music due to its modifications allowing for advanced note ornamentation. Similar educational programs exposing audiences to Indian, Arabic, Asian, and Celtic music are also available. For educational programs focusing on learning to perform music, see the World Music Workshops section below. (Video 11:42, audio 14).

## MUSIC WITH WORLD DANCE ARTS...



Many world dance experts perform with the band, including:

**Sapphira** combines the graceful art of ballet with the mesmerizing moves of Middle Eastern dance to create her own unique virtuoso form of world dance. First place winner of all three national belly dance competitions, she was a featured dancer in the 65th Annual Academy Awards, a guest dancer on Cheers, and did command performances for Princes Mohammed Abraham, Abdulaziz Abraham, and Abdulaziz Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. (Video 7:30).

**Estara** has performed at the World Festival of Sacred Music initiated by the Dalai Lama and has appeared on national television, including "Eye on America" on CBS. (Video 8:09).

## WORLD MUSIC WORKSHOPS...

**Master Classes:** All of the musicians performing with Ancient Future offer master classes on traditional music, musicianship, and technique. The areas of specialty are included in each musician's biography. (Video 6:57)

**World Rhythm Training:** Matthew Montfort takes students at all levels through his book, *Ancient Traditions -- Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali, and India.* (Video 6:57)

**Frog Toy Orchestra:** Using the simple percussion instruments shown in the video, this program allows everyone in the family to have a great time and learn something about frog calls and Balinese gamelan music, which uses interlocking rhythms similar to the interplay among rice paddy frogs. (Video 6:57)