

wexner center
for the arts

For immediate release: March 18, 2005

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ACCLAIMED PAKISTANI GROUP MAKES COLUMBUS DEBUT

“Raw, emotional, and thrilling...the torchbearers.”—*Raleigh News & Observer*

In the world music event of the year, Pakistan’s **Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali** makes its Columbus debut in **Mershon Auditorium** on **Thursday, April 14 at 8 pm**. Led by the nephews of the legendary Nusrat Fateh Ali Kahn, Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali is the latest in a line of ecstatic Sufi devotional (or qawwali) singers that stretches back nearly five centuries.

Tickets are \$18 for the general public and \$16 for students and Wexner Center members, Wexner Center Ticket Office, 614 292-3535, or Ticketmaster, 614 431-3600 or Ticketmaster.com.



Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali Photo by Vince Goodsell

ABOUT RIZWAN-MUAZZAM QAWWALI

The members of Pakistan’s Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali are the next generation of qawwali musicians, following in the tradition of the late, great Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan (1948–1997), who first introduced Qawwali music to Western audiences. His singing transcended language and cultural barriers, reaching people the world over. (Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan performed at the Wexner Center in 1993.) Today, Qawwali is seen as one of the world's most passionate and vibrant forms of music.

Nearly a decade into their career, the musicians in Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali are already proving to be masters of Sufi devotional music. The two young brothers who lead the group, Rizwan Mujahid Ali Khan and Muazzam Mujahid Ali Khan, have an impeccable musical pedigree: their grandfather was an uncle of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and personally taught Nusrat the art of Qawwali singing. Currently the group is a mainstay on Peter Gabriel’s influential Real World recording label, and its inventive reinterpretations of spiritual love songs based upon classical Islamic and Sufi texts were first showcased in the U.K. in July 1998, to much critical acclaim. Rizwan-

Muazzam Qawwali's latest release is *Day of Colours*, which the *All Music Guide* praised for containing "a great deal of beauty."

PREPERFORMANCE TALK

A preperformance talk led **Ali Akbar Mahdi** will be held at **7 pm in Room 20 of Page Hall** (1810 College Road, across the plaza from the Wexner Center and Mershon Auditorium). Mahdi is a professor of sociology at Ohio Wesleyan University and will discuss Sufi devotional music based on classic Islamic and Sufi texts.

EVENT SUPPORT

The Wexner Center's 2004–05 music season is presented by National City.

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2004–05 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Additional season support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

CALENDAR INFORMATION for RIZWAN-MUAZZAM QAWWALI

Description: Pakistani Sufi devotional singing group Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali makes its Columbus debut.

Date and time: Thursday, April 14, 2005 / 8 pm

Location: Mershon Auditorium, 1871 N. High St. (pre-performance talk at 7 pm in nearby Page Hall).

Tickets: \$18 general public, \$16 students and Wexner Center members. \$5 High Five tickets available for middle and high school students available at the Wexner Center Ticket Office at least a day before the show.

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600 or Ticketmaster.com).

Public information: 614 292-3535 and wexarts.org.

Digital images for the media are available; contact Erik Pepple at epepple@wexarts.org.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.