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**Cambridge College Presents “An Evening of Indian Classical Music”  
Benefit Concert Will Support Undergraduate Scholarships**

**CAMBRIDGE, MA—** The Cambridge College Undergraduate program is celebrating its diversity with “**An Evening of Indian Classical Music,**” a benefit concert with proceeds supporting scholarships for undergraduate students. The concert will **begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> in Room 152 of the College's main campus, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge.**

Dr. Michael Siegell, Professor and Director of the Undergraduate Psychology program at Cambridge College, is an accomplished and versatile sitarist who will lead the evening’s musical ensemble. Dr. Siegell will be joined by Akshay Navaladi, who will perform on the tabla, the two piece hand drums of North India.

The North Indian or Hindustani Indian classical music tradition known as *Raga Sangeet*, can be traced back more than two thousand years to its origins first noted in the Vedic hymns. It is an ongoing and dynamic music system that is deeply and profoundly connected to the sacred art traditions and aesthetics of India. Unlike Western classical music, as much as ninety percent of an Indian musical performance may be improvised, depending on the artistic facility and creative imagination of the performer.

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One of the few westerners to train seriously in Indian classical music, **Dr. Siegell** has been studying the sitar since the 1970's, both in the U.S. and in India with eminent musicians and teachers and was awarded a senior fellowship by the American Institute of Indian Studies-Smithsonian Institution to complete his Doctorate in Psychology and continue his music training and research in India (1985-86). He has accompanied many of India's greatest masters of classical music and has performed at many prestigious venues in the U.S. and India.

**Akshay Navaladi**, a recent graduate of Boston University, began studying music at the age of six. After a year of practicing the keyboard, Navaladi's fascination for the more magical rhythm of the tabla drew him towards the instrument. Navaladi was conferred the 'Ugadhi Purashkar' award for child prodigies by the Madras Telugu Academy at Chennai in 2002 and he has competed and won several awards in and outside New Delhi, in inter-school as well as national level competitions such as the All India Competitions of Music and Dance organized each year by the Navya Nataka Academy at Hyderabad. He also has had the honor of performing on Doordarshan, the national television channel of India.

The event is open to the public and the College will be collecting donations at the door in order to support scholarships for undergraduate students. For more information, please contact Susan Connors at [susan.connors@cambridgecollege.edu](mailto:susan.connors@cambridgecollege.edu) or by calling 617-873-0417.

Founded in 1971, Cambridge College is a private, non-profit institution dedicated to providing academically excellent, time-efficient, and cost-effective higher education for a diverse population of working adults for whom those opportunities may have been limited or denied. Cambridge College has sites in Cambridge, Springfield, and Lawrence, MA; Memphis, TN; Chesapeake, VA; Augusta, GA; Ontario, CA; and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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