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NEW HAVEN REGISTER **ENTERTAINMENT**

• Entertainment

Sultans of String hook up with Anwar Khurshid for ‘Subcontinental Drift’ at Cafe Nine



Sultans of

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NEW HAVEN >> Get ready for some serious picking at [Cafe Nine](#) on Sunday afternoon — and not always in the way you might expect.

Canada’s [Sultans of String](#) are talented musicians — and two-time Juno Award winners — but they’re also chameleons.

Led by fiddler and bandleader Chris McKhool, they worked with Irish luminaries Paddy Moloney and the Chieftains on their last album. They're working on an album with Moloney, Sweet Honey In The Rock AND Ruben Blades and Luba Mason, among others.

And for their current album, "Subcontinental Drift" — and their current tour — they've hooked up with sitar master Anwar Khurshid, whose music is featured in the Oscar-winning film, "Life of Pi," as well as "The Love Guru" with Mike Myers. Khurshid will be with them when they come to Cafe Nine for a "[Fernando Pinto Presents](#) 'The Sunday Buzz' with [Cygnus Radio](#)" matinee at 5 p.m. Sunday.

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Tickets are \$12 in advance at cafenine.com or \$15 at the door. For information, call 203-789-8281.

The Sultans of String are known for spotlighting various special guests from around the world, including Moloney on their last CD. But McKhool said in a press release that they are particularly excited about their latest collaboration.

"There is something really magical about joining world music rhythms that we often play, but with pop sensibilities and forms and lengths, and blending that with the music of the East," McKhool said. "Yet, Subcontinental Drift is more than a genre-hopping passport — it is a musical promise that embraces differences while finding common ground across culture, land and time."

Sultans of String play a woven blend of Celtic, Arabic folk, Cuban rhythms, Gypsy-jazz and South Asian music.

Since forming 10 years ago, Sultans of String have won a number of awards, including two JUNO nominations (the Canadian equivalent of a Grammy), two Canadian Folk Music Awards (out of eight nominations) and a SiriusXM Award.

The band is led by 6-string violinist McKhool (Jesse Cook, Pavlo), a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal recipient who was raised in a Lebanese-Egyptian household, along with founding guitarist Kevin Laliberté — plus whichever guests they may have with them.