

The UCLA Ethnomusicology Graduate Student Organization, in cooperation with the UCLA Center for India and South Asia and the UCLA Center for the Study of Religion presents:

## **Music for a Goddess** Music, Dance and Rituals of the Hindu Goddess Renuka-Yellamma



a film by Amy Catlin-Jairazbhoy and Nazir Ali Jairazbhoy

This latest documentary about South Asian music from Apsara Media explores the sacred music, dance and rituals of women and men who are devotees of the hybrid goddess Renuka/Yellamma. Worshipped by millions in southwest India, this fertility goddess is best known through media representations and social activism protesting against her devotees' practices, which are associated with sexuality, transgendering, child abandonment and prostitution. This film attempts to balance these typically negative representations of the tradition by documenting the unique musical forms and rituals essential to the worship of the goddess Renuka/Yellamma. The goddess and her son, Parasuram, narrate throughout the film, explaining her legacy and reflecting on the practices of her followers. This film seeks to humanize her followers' acts of devotion while also presenting a balanced view of the human rights issues at stake in both banning Renuka/Yellamma's music and allowing certain aspects of her rituals to continue. (Film length: 72 minutes)

**Friday, April 25, 2008 at 12:30pm**  
Orchestra Room, 1343 Schoenberg Music Building  
Reception to follow in Schoenberg Courtyard