

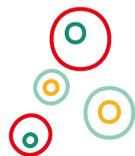


GEMARTS

SPRING/SUMMER

2023

WELCOME TO GEMARTS' SPRING SUMMER 2023 SEASON!



The coming of spring and then into summer signifies new beginnings, hope and exciting opportunities for GemArts to work with more musicians, dancers and artists from the UK, South Asia and beyond to connect with our incredible audiences.

Collaborating with partners and venues across the region GemArts will be bringing our eclectic mix of the very best Indian Classical music and dance as part of our Riverside Ragas concert series at Sage Gateshead, including Grammy award winner Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. With Durham University we are thrilled to present Indian Spring Colours concert series with a stellar line up of classical artists. As always, we have a fantastic programme for children and young people including GemArts Mini Mela at Caedmon Hall in Gateshead, and for the first time we will be bringing it to Darlington Hippodrome, and you won't want to miss our spectacular Holi Festival of Colours at Baltic, plus loads more workshops, theatre performances and events!

GemArts is committed to creativity, inclusivity and diversity, and ensuring that our rich cultural offer is accessible to as many people as possible, please keep checking www.gemarts.org for updates and please visit our SUPPORT US page if you are in a position to make a gift or donate.

On behalf of everyone at GemArts, thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming performances and events.

Vikas Kumar MBE
Director

GemArts is an award winning arts organisation based in the North East of England. A recognised leader in the South Asian and diversity arts sector, GemArts creates and programmes high quality concerts, events, festivals, workshops and commissions with regional, national and international artists across all art forms.

Our Vision: We believe that the arts enrich the lives of individuals and communities through celebrating our shared cultural diversity – raising aspirations, building stronger communities and breaking down barriers.

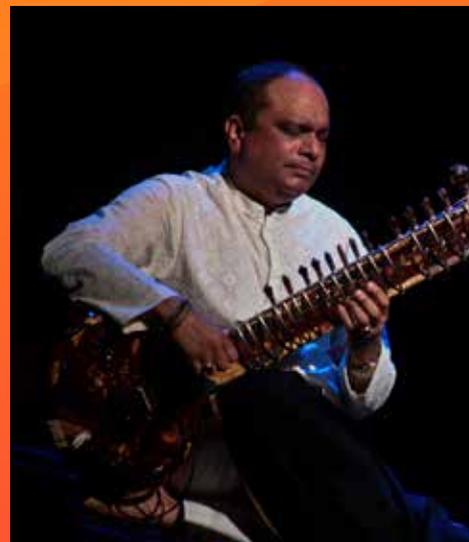
Our Mission: To increase equality of opportunity for everyone to engage with South Asian and culturally diverse arts – as artists, producers, participants and audiences.



INDIAN SPRING COLOURS

SATURDAY 11TH & SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

As we look forward to Holi, the Indian spring festival of colours, Join GemArts and MUSICON to mark the season with a weekend of performances at Durham University. The spring is celebrated in the Indian arts as a time of new life, playfulness and the appreciation of beauty, and Indian music and dance is perfectly adapted to capture these moods. Whatever the weather outside, immerse yourself in our celebration of the coming spring with superb exponents of these classical traditions.



ASHRAF SHARIF KHAN (SITAR) WITH SHAHBAZ HUSSAIN (TABLA)

Saturday 11th February

Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Durham University, Department of Music, Palace Green, DH1 3EP
Tickets: £10 (adult), £5 (student), £1 (under-18)

Box Office: Tickets can be purchased on the door or online at www.musicdurham.org

Ashraf Sharif Khan sitar playing combines technical proficiency with perfect musical expression. The melodic beauty of his style, accentuated by his dynamic rhythmic development and brilliant technique, combine to create a unique musical experience.

Shahbaz Hussain is regarded as the leading tabla virtuoso of his generation. He is extremely versatile and is highly sought after for his accompaniment skills by many of the great musicians of India and Pakistan.

INDIAN
SPRING
COLOURS



VIJAY RAJPUT (VOCAL)

Sunday 12th February

Time: 11:00am

Venue: Durham University, Department of Music, Palace Green, DH1 3EP

Tickets: £10 (adult), £5 (student), £1 (under-18)

Box Office: Tickets can be purchased on the door or online at www.musicdurham.org

Born in New Delhi, and now based in Newcastle upon Tyne, Vijay is disciple of the illustrious vocalist Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, and one of Britain's most talented Indian classical singers. A maestro of the 'khyal' style from the north Indian tradition and an artist of international repute, Vijay will mesmerize audiences with beautiful morning ragas.

Accompanied by **Shahbaz Hussain** on tabla and **Kaviraj Singh** on harmonium.



PAYAL RAMCHANDANI (KUCHIPUDI) & ELENA CATALANO (ODISSI)

Sunday 12th February

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Durham University, Department of Music, Palace Green, DH1 3EP

Tickets: £10 (adult), £5 (student), £1 (under-18)

Box Office: Tickets can be purchased on the door or online at www.musicdurham.org

Payal has 27 years of experience including training and performances on the global stage. She has evolved her own unique vocabulary, evident in her innovative choreography. Payal's performance will be an inlet into a storytelling experience coloured with a spectrum of emotional narratives presented in the vocabulary of the South Indian classical dance style of Kuchipudi

Dr Elena Catalano has established herself as one of the most impressive and influential Odissi dancers in the UK. Following her PhD at Durham University researching Odissi Training, she lectures at Kingston University where she teaches Odissi, yoga and dance anthropology. Elena has distinguished herself as a dancer and a scholar for her understanding and fine embodiment of Odissi aesthetics.



SEYED ALI JABERI AND THE HAMDEL ENSEMBLE

Friday 17th February

Time: 8pm

Venue: Sage Gateshead, Sage 2, NE8 2JR

Tickets: £15.00 / Concessions: North East first timer - £5, Under 25s - £7.50 (50% off), Family ticket - £35 (up to two adults and two children)

Box Office: www.sagegateshead.com or call 0191 443 4661

Seyed Ali Jaberri and the Hamdel Ensemble return with a new concert performance in 2023. A Breeze From Heaven features deeply moving contemporary devotional Persian Sufi music, Rumi poetry and dance. The show combines the profound philosophical and spiritual poetry of the revered 13th Century Persian poet Rumi, in the newest compositions by Seyed Ali Jaberri.

Seyed Ali Jaberri is a highly acclaimed tanbour maestro, a multi-instrumentalist, and an educator, who is seen as one of the most significant figures in contemporary Sufi music. He leads the Hamdel Ensemble, a group of Iranian Sufi musicians based in the UK, performing Jaberri's unique contemporary Sufi music compositions.

★★★★ "A Rumi celebration: part chamber music, part carnival... brims with quiet intensity" – Songlines Magazine

Presented by **GemArts and Sage Gateshead**



GEMARTS MINI MELA

Wednesday 22nd February

Time: 11:30am - 3:30pm

(Relaxed session 10-11am*)

Venue: Caedmon Hall, Gateshead Central Library, NE8 4LN

Tickets: FREE - just drop in!

Info: call 0191 4404124 or email info@gemarts.org

Friday 24th February

Time: 11:00am - 3:00pm

Venue: Darlington Hippodrome, Parkgate, Town Centre, Darlington DL1 1RR

Tickets: FREE - just drop in!

Packed full of family fun, GemArts Mini Mela returns this February half term to Caedmon Hall, and for the first time we are coming to Darlington Hippodrome, and it's all FREE! Drop in, take part and get creative. Join in workshops featuring Indian, African, Chinese and other visual arts from around the world, dance and drumming activities, learn something new and take home your very own creations.

Presented by **GemArts, Gateshead Culture Team and Darlington Hippodrome**



EMERALD EXPLORERS: GEMARTS MINI TAPESTRY WORKSHOP WITH SAJIL

Wednesday 1st March

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Venue: Wailes Room, Gateshead Central Library, NE8 4LN

Tickets: £5, pre-booking essential. Adults only

Box Office: www.gatesheadlibraries.eventbrite.com

Join artist Sajil Kaleem for a mini tapestry workshop exploring print making techniques on fabric. We will consider how nature in Springtime can inspire artworks using colour and how fabric is embedded in our everyday cultural experiences.

Presented by GemArts and Gateshead Arts Team



RIVERSIDE RAGAS: THE JONATHAN MAYER SITAR ENSEMBLE

Friday 10th March

Time: 8pm

Venue: Sage Gateshead, Sage 2, NE8 2JR

Tickets: *£15.00 / Concessions: North East first timer - £5, Under 25s - £7.50 (50% off), Family ticket - £35 (up to two adults and two children)

Box Office: www.sagegateshead.com or call 0191 443 4661

RAAG KAFI

Composer, producer and internationally acclaimed sitarists Jonathan Mayer performs the beautiful raag Kafi to celebrate the festival of Holi and the coming of spring.

VARIATIONS inspired by Borodin's Nocturne

In a special and unique adaptation to Indian instrumentation of the famous and unforgettable string piece, Jonathan composes new variations using raga structures in conjunction with harmonies. Joined by Debasish Mukherjee on tabla and Iain Mchugh on cello.

Originally commissioned by Amina Khayyam Dance Company for their production Kantha Katha-k (2021)

Presented by GemArts, Sage Gateshead and ZerOclassikal



HOLI FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

Saturday 11th March

Time: 12-4pm

Venue: Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, South Shore Road, Gateshead NE8 3BA

Tickets: FREE, no booking required

Join GemArts for Holi Festival of Colours, hosted in partnership with BALTIC. Celebrate colour and the Holi tradition through artist workshops, Henna stations, dance, music and food.

Taking place throughout the building, you can enjoy exhibition tours and join contemporary artists exploring Rangoli and mandala making.

The event will culminate in a colourful explosion, where you can throw colourful pigment and celebrate the oncoming of spring. This bit is fun and messy, so please wear something you don't mind getting dirty.



RIVERSIDE RAGAS: ABISHEK BORKER (SAROD), SABERI MISRA (KATHAK DANCE) & PT RAJKUMAR MISRA (TABLA)

Friday 28th April

Time: 8pm

Venue: Sage Gateshead, Sage 2, NE8 2JR

Tickets: £15.00 / Concessions: North East first timer - £5, Under 25s - £7.50 (50% off), Family ticket - £35 (up to two adults and two children)

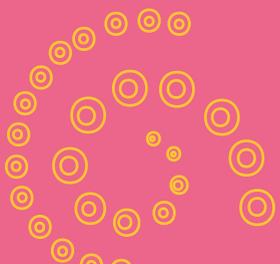
Box Office: www.sagegateshead.com or call 0191 443 4661

This unique Riverside Ragas will begin with a sarod recital by rising star Abhishek Borkar. Abhishek will be presenting a traditional solo performance showcasing the beauty, spontaneity and trance like quality of Indian Classical Music.

The second half of the evening will be a Kathak dance performance by Saberi Misra, the 11th generation of the Jaipur Gharana tradition. Saberi will be presenting a performance which will encapsulate the power, grace and complexity of this ancient art form.

Both Abhishek and Saberi will be accompanied by internationally renowned tabla maestro Pandit Rajkumar Misra, and Siddhie Kapshikarr on harmonium.

Presented by GemArts and Sage Gateshead





HAPPY BIRTHDAY SUNITA

Thursday 18th May – Saturday 20th May

Time: 7:30pm / Saturday matinee at 2:30pm

Venue: Northern Stage, Stage 1, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RH

Tickets: From *£10.00

Box Office: www.northernstage.co.uk or call 0191 230 5151

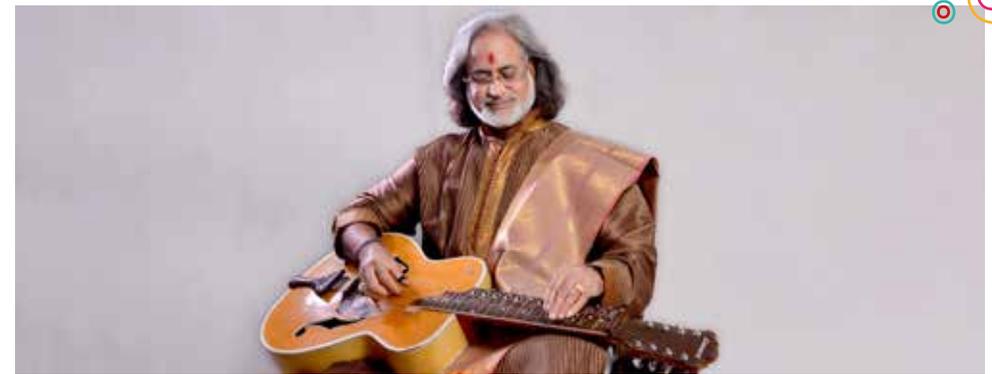
The Johal family invites you to a surprise birthday party!

Mum has been cooking all day. None of the family are on time. Nav and Harleen are squabbling already and the birthday girl, Sunita, is nowhere to be seen.

The curries are simmering and rotis are being smothered in full fat butter in the new kitchen extension. Years of conflict has been bubbling under the surface, ready to boil over. Today, decades after arriving in this country, things are about to change for the family and will never be the same again.

Rifco Theatre Company revives this sell-out comedy, with a new cast and fresh script. Put on your birthday party finery and get ready for a samosa saga.

Co-promoted by Northern Stage and GemArts



RIVERSIDE RAGAS: DIVINE MOMENTS BY PANDIT VISHWA MOHAN BHATT

Saturday 20th May

Time: 8pm

Venue: Sage Gateshead, Sage 2, NE8 2JR

Tickets: *£15.00 / Concessions: North East first timer - £5, Under 25s - £7.50 (50% off), Family ticket - £35 (up to two adults and two children)

Box Office: www.sagegateshead.com or call 0191 443 4661

Creator of the Mohan Veena and Grammy Award winner, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt has mesmerized the world with his pristine pure, delicate yet fiery music.

The Mohan Veena is a modified version of the steel guitar which blends the Hawaiian slide guitar with traditional Indian sitar, sarod, and vina techniques.

Vishwa Mohan Bhatt has become an international cultural ambassador of Indian music.

He has recorded numerous albums and was awarded the Grammy Award for his album A Meeting by the River with Ry Cooder (1993). Other accolades include Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri and the Sangeet Natak Academy from the Indian Government for his contribution to music.

Accompanying will be Grammy nominated and one of the world's leading tabla players Pandit Subhen Chatterjee. Virtuoso

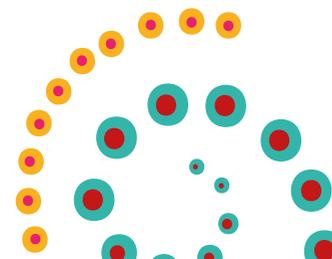
Presented by GemArts, Sage Gateshead and Asian Artist Agency.

*booking fee may apply for concert tickets - see website more details

COMING SOON

GemArts award winning Masala Festival returns from 17th to 23rd July 2023 bringing you a mix and blend of the finest South Asian arts and culture to venues, places and spaces across the North East. Information on the full programme, sponsorship and engagement opportunities coming soon. Keep checking www.gemarts.org for details.

MASALA
FESTIVAL



GET
CREATIVE

BE
INSPIRED

ENJOY

EXPERIENCE

LEARN



PARTICIPATE!

GemArts delivers high quality arts sessions and projects for people of all ages and backgrounds, offering extraordinary cultural experiences including music, dance, visual arts, theatre and literature from around the world, enabling participants to develop new skills and interests whilst working with professional artists.

For Schools and Community Groups Workshops from 1 hour tasters to longer term projects, offering a range of arts activity, including Bollywood Dance, African Drumming, Chinese and Indian Visual Arts, Lyric Writing, Textiles, Aerosol Art, Photography and much more. GemArts also deliver projects to raise awareness, celebrate culture and identity, and tackle important issues.

Projects are tailored to a group's interests, needs, timescale and budget, providing educational, creative and enjoyable learning experiences whilst promoting a greater understanding of world arts and cultures. Costs depend on activity, group size and materials required.

For further information or to discuss a project please contact GemArts on 0191 440 4125 or info@gemarts.org

GemArts enables young people to achieve Arts Award, a nationally recognised qualification, and supports schools to achieve and maintain Arts Mark.

For Artists

To be added to GemArts freelance artist database, please send your up to date CV, covering letter and examples of your work to info@gemarts.org.

GemArts also share information and opportunities online through our website and social media platforms.

GemArts is committed to offering opportunity for everyone to engage with South Asian and culturally diverse arts. If you can support this work, please consider making a donation at www.gemarts.org.



SUPPORT GEMARTS

GemArts believe the arts enrich the lives of individuals and communities through celebrating our shared cultural diversity – Raising aspirations, building stronger communities and breaking down barriers. Our mission is to increase equality of opportunity for everyone to engage with South Asian and culturally diverse arts - as artists, producers, participants and audiences. As a charity we rely on raising funds from donations and sponsorship, so more people from all backgrounds can take part every year.

Help us make a difference and support our work creating life enhancing projects, presenting exceptional performances and events, and bringing valuable support and creative opportunities to communities that are least engaged and vulnerable.



Individual Giving

Donations of all sizes make a difference;

- £5 buys art materials enabling a young person to learn new creative skills and share this with friends and family.
- £20 helps subsidise our annual Diwali event, making it accessible, enabling communities to come together, share and celebrate.
- £50 provides space so a community group can get creative, build friendships and strengthen support networks.
- £150 pays for dance classes, getting older people active, helping tackle isolation, and improving health and wellbeing.
- £250 enables young people living in challenging circumstances to take part in a music project that builds their confidence, helping them achieve new skills, leading to a better future.

**DONATE ONLINE AT:
WWW.GEMARTS.ORG/SUPPORT-US**

Business Giving

GemArts work with businesses of all sizes, offering exciting sponsorship opportunities around our performance and participatory arts programmes. We can help local businesses bring customers fun holiday activities, showcase spaces and venues, raise awareness of local issues, offer staff, client and stakeholder hospitality opportunities and much more.

To discuss how you or your business can support our charitable work contact Vikas Kumar on 0191 440 4125 or vikas@gemarts.org.

GemArts is part of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group (GVEMSG) registered charity no. 1008100 supporting Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, refugees and those seeking sanctuary.



GEMARTS

For further information and to join GemArts mailing list please visit www.gemarts.org

Contact us on 0191 4404124 or email info@gemarts.org

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GemArts is part of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group registered charity. No 1008100

