



**GEMARTS**

**Spring/Summer**

**2024**



# WELCOME TO GEMARTS'

## SPRING SUMMER 2024 SEASON!

Welcome to GemArts' vibrant Spring Summer 2024 Season!

As the seasons change, so do the opportunities for GemArts to collaborate with an array of talented musicians, dancers, and artists from the UK, South Asia, and beyond. This season promises new beginnings, hope, and exciting connections with our incredible audiences.

Prepare for an unforgettable evening of outstanding music as world-renowned Khyal vocalist Pandit Sajjan Misra takes center stage at Newcastle Culture Lab.

We have an incredible line up of Riverside Ragas at The Glasshouse, and in partnership with Durham University, our Indian Spring Colours concert series boasts an equally stellar lineup of classical artists.

For our younger audience, don't miss GemArts Mini Mela at Caedmon Hall in Gateshead. And our ever popular Holi celebration is back - be part of the spectacular Holi Festival of Colours at Baltic, alongside engaging workshops, dance performances, and more!

Stay updated on our events at [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org) and consider supporting us through our SUPPORT US page. Thank you for your continued support.

We eagerly anticipate welcoming you to 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.



### LUNAR NEW YEAR

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

**Time:** 10.30am - 4.00pm

**Venue:** Clayport Library, Dunelm House (SU) and City Centre

**Tickets:** FREE entry

**Box Office:** [thisisdurham.com/whats-on](https://thisisdurham.com/whats-on)

Celebrate the year of the Dragon with calligraphy, Chinese language, Chinese lion dancing, craft stalls for children, music and dance performances.



### GEMARTS MINI MELA

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

**Time:** 11:30am - 3:30am (Relaxed session 10-11am\*)

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

**Tickets:** FREE - just drop in!

**Box Office:** 0191 4404124 / [info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)

Calling all children and families! Get ready for a spectacular adventure at GemArts Mini Mela this February half term, and it's all FREE!

Immerse yourself in a world of arts, music, and dance from across the globe. Dive into workshops featuring Indian, African, Chinese and other visual arts. Move to the rhythm with Bollywood dance and get your very own Henna design.

Presented by GemArts and Gateshead Culture Team







## Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March & Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Now in its third year, join GemArts and MUSICON at Durham University for Indian Spring Colours, to celebrate the season with a series of concerts showcasing the best of Hindustani classical music. Embracing the spirit of new life, playfulness, and the appreciation of beauty that characterises spring in Indian arts immerse yourself in the timeless melodies of classical ragas, perfectly capturing the essence of the season.



### SATWINDER PAL SINGH AND RABAB SINGH

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Venue:** Durham University, Dpt. of Music, Palace Green DH1 3RL  
**Tickets:** £10 (adult), £5 (student), £1 (under-16)

**Box Office:** GemArts Eventbrite / Cash at Door

Satwinder Pal Singh's sarangi recital will launch this year's Indian Spring Colours concert series with an evening of beautiful ragas.

Satwinder will be accompanied on tabla by Rabab Singh.



### SANCHITA PAL

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Venue:** Durham University, Dpt. of Music, Palace Green DH1 3RL  
**Tickets:** £10 (adult), £5 (student), £1 (under-16)  
**Box Office:** GemArts Eventbrite / Cash at Door

Sanchita Pal, a leading Hindustani classical and semi-classical singer in the UK, began her musical journey in India under the guidance of eminent Gurus. A disciple of Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, Sanchita has collaborated with musicians globally and received numerous accolades. Join her for a captivating performance featuring morning ragas, thumris, and Bhajans.

Accompanied by Gurdain Singh Ryatt on tabla and Satwinder Pal Singh on sarangi.



### EESHAR SINGH AND GURDAIN RAYATT

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

**Time:** 2:00 pm  
**Venue:** Durham University, Dpt. of Music, Palace Green DH1 3RL  
**Tickets:** £10 (adult), £5 (student), £1 (under-16)  
**Box Office:** GemArts Eventbrite / Cash at Door

Eeshar Singh, an emerging Santoor player and composer, blends traditional Indian classical techniques with contemporary influences, transcending genres.

Accompanying him is Gurdain Rayatt, a leading tabla player trained from a young age, who has performed with legends of Hindustani music and is a dedicated tabla teacher.







## Riverside Ragas: PRATTYUSH BANERJEE & RAJKUMAR MISRA

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

**Time:** 8:00pm  
**Venue:** The Glasshouse,  
Gateshead NE8 2JR  
**Tickets:** £7.50 to £16.50

**Box Office:** 0191 443 4661 /  
theglasshouseicm.org

Pandit Prattyush Banerjee, a boundary-pushing sarod virtuoso from Kolkata, blends solo mastery with innovative composition and instrument design. Accompanied by tabla maestro Pandit Rajkumar Misra, representing the rich tradition of his Jaipur Gharana, this duo promises a captivating musical experience.

Presented by GemArts and The Glasshouse



## PANDIT SAJJAN MISRA

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Venue:** Culture Lab, Newcastle  
University NE1 7RU  
**Tickets:** £20  
**Box Office:** 0191 440 4124 / GemArts  
Eventbrite

Pandit Sajjan Misra does not need any introduction for Indian music lovers, his vocal abilities have been recognised across the world and is a part of the 300-year-old Khyal tradition of singing from the Banaras Gharana.

Accompanied by Pandit Sanju Sahai on tabla, vocalist Swaransh Mishra and Kirpal Singh Panesar on harmonium;

Join us for an evening of outstanding music!

Presented by GemArts, Asian Artists Network and Newcastle University



## GEMARTS X BALTIC HOLI FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March

**Time:** 12pm - 4pm  
**Venue:** Baltic Centre for  
Contemporary Art, South  
Shore Road, NE8 3BA

**Tickets:** FREE but booking for colour  
throw essential

**Box Office:** BALTIC eventbrite

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

Enjoy exhibition tours and take part in creative workshops exploring South Asian art forms throughout the building.

This joyous event will culminate in colour throwing at 3pm, where we will gather outdoors to throw colourful powder pigment and celebrate the arrival of spring. Tickets are FREE but booking is essential.

Presented by GemArts and Baltic,  
Supported by Newcastle Hindu Temple, Chai Events,  
Spice FM and Gateshead Council



## MEHEK:

Aakash Odedra Company &  
Aditi Mangaldas Dance  
Company

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April

**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Venue:** Northern Stage, Stage 1,  
Barras Bridge, Newcastle  
upon Tyne, NE1 7RH

**Tickets:** From £12

**Box Office:** 0191 230 5151 /  
northernstage.co.uk/

Mehek is a captivating exploration of the human heart, its desires, courage, and resilience, masterfully brought to life by Aakash Odedra and Aditi Mangaldas, eminent South Asian dancers. This enchanting performance unveils an unspoken and overlooked love story, centered around a mature woman and a younger man. Delving into their intricate characters, the dance challenges norms, redefining the essence of love with unparalleled artistry.

Co-presented with GemArts,  
Northern Stage and Dance City





## RIVERSIDE RAGAS: SHANTALA SUBRAMANYAM

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April

**Time:** 8:00pm  
**Venue:** The Glasshouse,  
Gateshead, NE8 2JR  
**Tickets:** £7.50 to £16.50  
**Box Office:** 0191 443 4661 /  
theglasshouseicm.org

This Riverside Ragas takes us on a journey to the South of India, with Shantala Subramanyam on the flute accompanied by Balu Raghuraman on Violin and Prakash on Ghatam - join us for an evening of Carnatic music that is sure to inspire!

Raised in Chennai, the heartland of Carnatic music, Shantala is renowned for her technical prowess and complex rhythmic patterns on the Venu, a Carnatic bamboo flute.

Presented by GemArts and The Glasshouse



## SPRINGTIME PATTERN MAKING ON TOTES WITH SAJIL

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May

**Time:** 10.30am - 12.30pm  
**Venue:** Wailes Room, Gateshead  
Central Library, NE8 4LN  
**Tickets:** £5 prebooking essential  
**Box Office:** 0191 440 4124 / GemArts  
Eventbrite

Join artist Sajil Kaleem as we explore the mesmerising world of repeated patterns using leaves and other natural forms! Thinking about nature's geometry, we will explore the instinctual desire to find symmetry to create a bright, intricate collection of stamps that function similarly to the woodblock printing method that is emblematic of South Asian fabric.

We will be creating our patterns first by assembling the gathered materials, and then printing this using fabric friendly ink onto tote bags!

Presented by GemArts in partnership with Emerald Explorers and Gateshead Culture Team



## AMINA KHAYYAM DANCE DOUBLE BILL - ONE | BIRD

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June

**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Venue:** Dance City, Temple Street,  
Newcastle, NE1 4BR  
**Tickets:** £18 / £14.50 concessions  
**Box Office:** 0191 261 0505 /  
dancecity.co.uk

Amina Khayyam's solo performance ONE uses the cyclic phenomenon of South Asian classical dance to tell contemporary stories of migrants exploited by media and politicians. BIRD, opening with a silent scream, addresses questions faced by women in abusive relationships, weaving a high-energy Kathak story to a live music score by Sohini Alam and Debaish Mukherjee.

Presented by GemArts and Dance City



Coming soon...

MASALA  
FESTIVAL

GemArts award winning Masala Festival returns from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.gemarts.org) for details.



Learn

Experience

Enjoy

Be  
Inspired

Get  
Creative

## 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 project inquiries, contact GemArts at 0191 440 4124 or [info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org).

GemArts enables young people to achieve Arts Award, a nationally recognized qualification, and support schools in obtaining and maintaining Arts Mark.

### For Artists

Interested in joining GemArts' freelance database? Submit your CV, cover letter, and work examples to [info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org).

GemArts shares information and opportunities online through their website and social media platforms.

### Support GemArts

As a charity, GemArts rely on donations and sponsorship to support our work in creating life-enhancing projects, extraordinary cultural experiences, and providing valuable creative opportunities to underserved communities. If you can, please donate at [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org) or call 0191 440 4124



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# GEMARTS

For further information and to join GemArts mailing list please visit [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org)

Contact us on 0191 4404124

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CONNECTING, SUPPORTING, AND PROMOTING  
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GemArts is a part of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group registered charity.

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