



Gem Arts

Creating and Profiling Diverse Arts

Spring/Summer 2012

Dear Friend,

Welcome to GemArts' Spring / Summer 2012 Season.

Over the next four months we bring to the region a rich mix of outstanding performances from across the Indian sub continent as well as profiling the very best emerging artists from the UK; from music, dance, theater, film, literature and poetry we have something for everyone, and of course, if you want to try something new, we have that too!

Launching the season in April, at the Sage Gateshead, we have the incredible violin duo Ganesh and Kumaresh from South India. This year marked the 150th Anniversary celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore, and to mark this special occasion, we present critically acclaimed singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya from Bangladesh. Continuing the international theme, at the end of May, we bring back the amazing Indian theatre company Niche Productions for their third presentation in the region - a musical theatre piece celebrating the life and works of one of India's greatest composers R.D. Burman.

We are always excited to tell you about new initiatives and we are collaborating with Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts and Trashed Organ on The Festival of Belonging which brings together, from across the region and globally, some of the most innovative and inspiring writers, musicians and artists for a week long extravaganza exploring what it means to belong here, there and everywhere.

GemArts is absolutely committed to supporting and developing the work of new and emerging artists from the UK and we have a stellar line up including Romy Shay and Kiran Dhanoa, two of the freshest singers on the urban Asian music scene; Roopa Panesar, who is fast becoming one of the finest sitar players the UK has ever produced; and as part of the ¡VAMOS! Festival we have an ensemble of North East based artists producing brand new work rooted in the rich traditions of Flamenco and Indian music.

We truly hope that you are inspired and excited by the programme, and we look forward to seeing you.

Vikas Kumar
Director, GemArts

GemArts is a dynamic arts development organisation based in the North East of England; we produce and programme new and exciting culturally diverse arts, by creating and developing 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 cultural diversity – raising aspirations, building stronger communities and breaking down barriers.

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

www.gemarts.org



Ganesh and Kumaresh

Friday 13th April

Time: 8pm

Venue: The Sage Gateshead, Hall 2

Tickets: £12 (concessions available)

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

www.thesagegateshead.org

Ganesh and Kumaresh are considered by many to be the ace violin duo of Carnatic Music. The brothers are known for their innovative and inventive interpretation of South Indian classical music. They have been playing together since they were children; having hit headlines in 1972 for their first concert at the ages of seven and five respectively. Their music is highly creative and vigorous and reflects the rich tapestry of India, its languages, customs, traditions, festivities and the pursuit of the divine.

'When violin duo Ganesh and Kumaresh get together, they set the house on fire.'

The Times of India

Presented with The Sage Gateshead

Vaisakhi Celebrations

Saturday 21st April

Time: 7pm

Venue: Gateshead Civic Centre,
Regent Street, NE8 1HH

Tickets: £8 Adult / £5 Child

Box Office: 0191 440 4124

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group and GemArts present their annual Vaisakhi Celebrations with a rich mix of music, dance, food and good times!

This year's line up includes two rising stars of the urban Asian music scene. Headlining will be Romy Shay performing exclusive tracks from his new album, and in support will be the angelic voice of Kiran Dhanoa. Both singers fuse music from the exciting and striking genres of bhangra, Bollywood and RnB, creating a fresh new sound and incredible live performances not to be missed!



The Festival of Belonging

Monday 30th April – Sunday 6th May

A week-long explosion of literary activity across Newcastle-Gateshead, including literary events, workshops and a writing competition for young people in the North East. The Festival will bring together writers and audiences to explore and reflect on what it means to belong; to a country, a community, a family; a place. Local poetry and music night Trashed Organ, will curate a four day fringe festival with top local writers and musicians, through performance, workshops, competitions and jazz. Over the bank holiday weekend, NCLA will welcome writers from across the globe, including Hari Kunzru, Tahmima Anam, and Sapphire, alongside film showings and radio broadcasts.

For full details and tickets see:
www.trashedorgan.co.uk
and www.ncl.ac.uk/ncla

As part of the festival, GemArts presents:

Firas Kirala

Monday 30th April

Time: 8pm
Venue: The Central Bar, The Blue Room,
Half Moon Lane, Gateshead, NE8 2AN
Tickets: £5 (£4 conc.)
£15 - Festival Pass
(Trashed Organ Events only)
Box Office: www.wegotickets.com/trashedorgan

The opening night of the fringe festival begins with a fantastic evening of poetry and live music. Firas Kirala, internationally acclaimed Oud player, originally from Baghdad and now living in the North East, will present a spine tingling repertoire of original and classical Arabic music.



Kalagora

Wednesday 2nd May

Time: 7pm
Venue: The Central Bar, The Blue Room,
Half Moon Lane, Gateshead, NE8 2AN
Tickets: £5 (£4 conc.)
£15 - Festival Pass
(Trashed Organ Events only)
Box Office: www.wegotickets.com/trashedorgan

From the street surrealism of Mumbai to London's East End via Manhattan on Millennium night. The global wanderer collides with a midget tobacconist, paranoid immigration officers and cross-dressing hedonists. Kalagora is a coming-of-age journey across three continents, splicing poetry, theatre and video. Written and performed by Indian-born poet Siddhartha Bose and featuring music by Bollywood composer Pankaj Awasthi, Kalagora exposes the shock of the megacity.

"an extraordinary odyssey"
Julian Sands, BBC Radio 4



Photo: Liam Davenport

Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya

Sunday 13th May

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: East Durham College Auditorium,
Peterlee, SR8 2RN

Tickets: £15 Adults / £8 Child
Under 5's free

Box Office: 0191 586 0744 / 0191 388 1299

This year marked the 150th anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, with events taking place world wide to commemorate his life and work, as well as his values and ideals. Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was the Bengali poet, philosopher, social reformer, and dramatist who came into international prominence when he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1913, the first Asian to receive the coveted award. To celebrate this special occasion we present for the very first time in the North East, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, a contemporary Rabindra Sangeet singer - immensely popular in both her native Bangladesh and in West Bengal, India; and widely hailed as one of the most versatile performers of songs written and composed by Tagore.

Presented with Northern Friends Circle



Pancham – the Immortal Note

Saturday 26th May

Time: 7pm

Venue: Jubilee Theatre, St Nicholas'
Hospital, Gosforth, NE3 3XT

Tickets: £12 Adults / £10 Children
Under 5's free

Box Office: 0191 440 4124

Rahul Dev Burman commonly known as R. D. Burman and nicknamed Pancham, ruled the Indian music scene from mid-sixties to mid-eighties and was credited with revolutionising the music in Bollywood films, introducing western styles and rhythms whilst keeping the melody intact; scoring some of the most iconic songs for singers such as Asha Bhosle (his wife) and Kishore Kumar, which made them famous!

This highly conceptualised theatre piece traces R. D. Burman's life and works combining music, theatre and audio visual snippets from his contemporaries like GulzarSaab, Javed Akhtar, Shammi Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, and modern greats like Shantanu Moitra, Shankar Mahadevan and Vishal Bharadwaj to name a few.

A welcome return to the North East for Niche Productions, a brilliant Indian theatre company, and singers from Indian hit TV show SaReGaMaPa, as they present a unique on stage experience of pure escapism!

Presented with NEEMA



Roopa Panesar

Friday 15th June

Time: 8.15pm

Venue: The Sage Gateshead, NRF Hall,
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays

Tickets: £10 (Concs available)

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

www.thesagegateshead.org

Considered one of the finest Sitar players to emerge on the Indian music scene in the UK, Roopa Panesar has been receiving critical acclaim from audiences and peers alike for her outstanding ability and quality of music. Her soulful and unique style of playing has left her listeners captivated and craving more. Roopa recently released her greatly anticipated first solo album 'Khoj' and has completed a very successful UK and US Tour performing to sell out audiences.

Accompanying Roopa on tabla will be Shahbaz Hussain, an extremely versatile player who is fast emerging as one of the most promising tabla virtuosos of his generation.

Presented with The Sage Gateshead

GemArts delivers high quality arts projects with people of all ages and backgrounds to extend their experience of World Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts.

Our workshops enable people to develop new skills and interests whilst working alongside professional artists.

For Schools and Community Groups

Join in with workshops that can run from 1 hour tasters to longer term projects, workshop examples include Bollywood and Street Dancing, African Drumming, Chinese and Indian Arts, DJ and Lyric Writing, Textiles, Photography and lot lots more.

Workshops can be tailored to your group's interests, needs, timescale and budget to provide educational and enjoyable learning experiences whilst promoting a greater understanding of world arts and different cultures.

Workshop costs depend on the activity chosen and amount of materials needed for the art form.

For Artists

GemArts are always keen to hear from artists of all disciplines who are interested in working with us.

To be added to GemArts freelance artist database, please send us your CV, covering letter and examples of your work. Artists must have a current CRB enhanced check.

Visit www.gemarts.org for further information or contact GemArts on 0191 440 4124 or email info@gemarts.org

GET CREATIVE BE INSPIRED ENJOY EXPERIENCE LEARN PARTICIPATE!



Photo: Eastwest

From India to Spain / El Libertador

Tuesday 10th July

Time: 7pm

Venue: The Stand (Comedy Club),
31 High Bridge,
Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 1EW

Tickets: £6

Box Office: 0844 693 3336

As part of ¡VAMOS! Festival 2012 join us for a special event presenting two productions showcasing brand new works in progress by North East based artists.



From India to Spain — is the encounter of two rich music cultures, traditions and musicians. Through diaspora and migration, the people who left India after centuries of travelling, settled in the South of the Iberian Peninsula and had a vital influence not only on Flamenco music but also on Flamenco palos and dance. The project features Nick Able (sitar) who has travelled the world with Anoushka Shankar, Maybe Beltran (Flamenco dancer) who performed in the Carlos Saura film Flamenco-Flamenco, Spanish ethnomusicologist and guitarist, Paco Bethencourt and multi-talented musician and percussionist Jeremy Bradfield.

Commissioned and supported by GemArts and ¡VAMOS!

El Libertador — Simon Bolivar was the seminal and influential figure of the independence of Latin America from Spanish colonial rule. This solo monologue performance with actor Alex Elliot is presented in both Spanish and English, written and directed by Nikolas Barrera, and explores universal themes of ambitions and dreams and life failures.



Programme at a Glance

Friday 13th April 8pm

GANESH & KUMARESH

Hall 2, The Sage Gateshead

£12 (concessions available)

0191 443 4661 / www.thesagegateshead.org

Saturday 21st April 7pm

VAISAKHI CELEBRATIONS

Gateshead Civic Centre

£8 Adult / £5 children

0191 440 4124

Monday 30th April 8pm

FIRAS KIRALA (The Festival of Belonging)

Central Bar, Gateshead. £5 / £4 conc.

£15 Festival Pass – Trashed Organ events only

www.wegotickets.com/trashedorgan

and www.ncl.ac.uk/ncla

Wednesday 2nd May 7pm

KALAGORA (The Festival of Belonging)

Central Bar, Gateshead. £5 / £4 conc.

£15 Festival Pass – Trashed Organ events only

www.wegotickets.com/trashedorgan

and www.ncl.ac.uk/ncla

Sunday 13th May 4.30pm

REZWANA CHOWDHURY BANNYA

East Durham College Auditorium, Peterlee

£15 Adults / £8 Child / Under 5's free

0191 586 0744 or 0191 388 1299

Saturday 26th May 7pm

PANCHAM – THE IMMORTAL NOTE

Jubilee Theatre, St. Nicholas' Hospital, Gosforth

£12 Adults / £10 Children / Under 5's free

0191 440 4124

Friday 15th June 8.15pm

ROOPA PANESAR

Northern Rock Foundation Hall,

The Sage Gateshead

£10 (concessions available)

0191 443 4661 / www.thesagegateshead.org

Tuesday 10th July 7pm

**FROM INDIA TO SPAIN /
EL LIBERTADOR**

(¡VAMOS! Festival 2012)

The Stand, 31 High Bridge, Newcastle

£6. 0844 693 3336

For further information and to join our mailing list please contact:

GemArts, Old Town Hall, West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HE

Tel: 0191 440 4124 | Email: info@gemarts.org | Web: www.gemarts.org

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