

# **Gem Arts**

Creating and Profiling Diverse Arts

Spring/Summer 2014

## Welcome to GemArts' Spring/Summer 2014 Season

Another year has now started and with it GemArts welcome some brand new faces to the team. Sophie Logan joins us as Administrator, and Sinéad Burke has come on board as Communications and Development Officer. After a brilliant 2013 we are really excited to expand the team, and look forward to bringing you another fantastic programme of music, dance and performance from across the UK and Asia.

We begin the Spring/Summer season a little earlier than usual, in February, with Harjinderpal Singh Matharu performing mesmerising ragas in Sage Gateshead. Accompanied by Bhupinder Singh Chaggar on tabla, the evening will showcase the work of these great musicians. In the same month we extend a very warm welcome to Community, who bring their hugely popular Manchester club night to Newcastle's Star and Shadow for one night only. To round off a busy month GemArts are heading down south with partners Akademi and Kala Sangam to present a triple bill of contemporary South Asian dance at London's Southbank Centre. We are delighted to be working on this national initiative supporting two new commissions by emerging choreographers Urja Desai Thakore and Divya Kasturi, winners of our Choreogata Artists Development Programme.

Sage Gateshead plays host to iconic musicians Kushal Das and Kumar Bose when they join us in March. Kushal Das is now considered to be one of the main torchbearers of the sitar, leading a new generation with his mesmerising performances, and we are expecting a night of deeply moving music from these world renowned musicians.

Back for another year in April, is our ever popular Vaisakhi festival. Come and join us for an evening of music, food and great family fun, all for the bargain price of £5 per group! April also sees GemArts continue the partnership with Durham University when we present incredible vocalist Manjiri Asanare-Kelkar in Durham Town Hall.

When summer finally arrives Grammy nominated Debashish Bhattacharya makes a welcome return to the Sage Gateshead. With his own unique take on Indian classical music and an international career spanning more than thirty years, this will be a night to remember. We end the season in June with outstanding vocalist Uday Bhalwalkar as he performs Dhrupad one of the oldest forms of North Indian classical music.

Alongside a full season of performances, GemArts will also be running a busy schedule of workshops and participatory events across the north east.

On behalf of everyone at GemArts I look forward to welcoming you over the coming months.

Vikas Kumar  
Director

**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.

## Harjinderpal Singh Matharu Thursday 6th February

Time: 7.45pm

Venue: Sage Gateshead, NRF Hall  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays,  
NE8 2JR

Tickets: £10 (concessions available)  
£25 Family ticket

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

[www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

Harjinderpal Singh Matharu is known across the world for presenting mesmerising ragas on the santoor. Starting delicately and culminating in a stirring crescendo, this complex instrument produces a beautiful trance like sound, which Sufi mystics use as an accompanying instrument in their divine music.

Harjinderpal is considered the top most disciple of the legendary Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, an exceptional accolade.

Accompanying will be Bhupinder Singh Chaggar on tabla.

Presented with Sage Gateshead

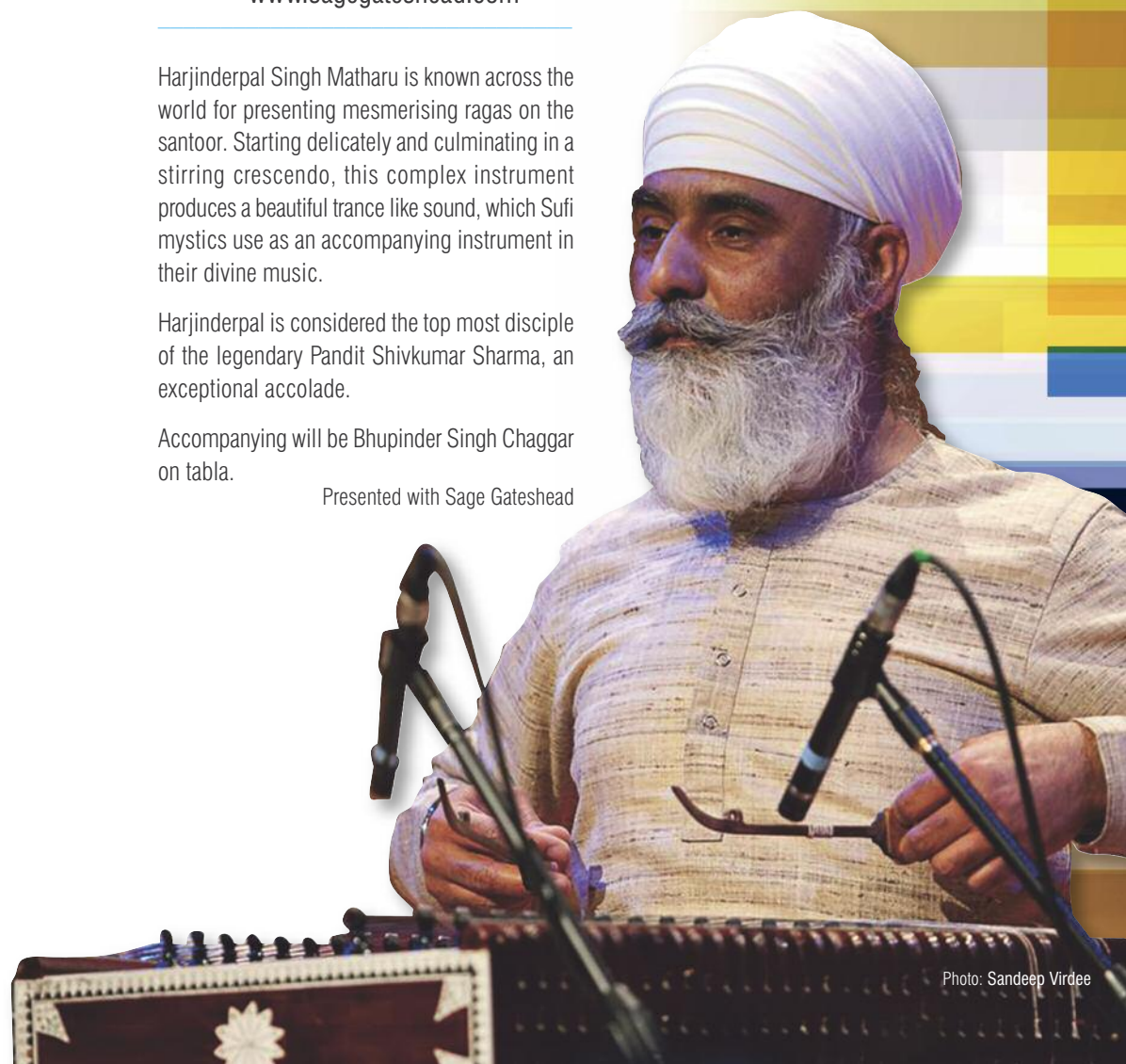


Photo: Sandeep Virdee

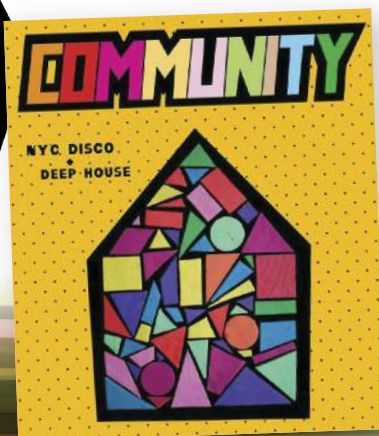
## Community

### Saturday 22nd February

Time: 10pm–4am  
Venue: Star and Shadow  
Stepney Bank,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE8 2JR  
Tickets: £5 on the door before 11pm  
£7 on the door after 11pm  
[www.starandshadow.org.uk](http://www.starandshadow.org.uk)

Well known Mancunian club night Community rolls into Newcastle's Star and Shadow, for a special one off party this February. Taking influence from 70s New York clubs like The Loft and Paradise Garage, shaped by legendary club The Hacienda and welcoming artists from all over the world, Community's music policy is never static and always focused on making people dance. After running underground club nights for almost 6 years in Manchester, Community have started to branch out, bringing their parties to new cities. Community line up with distinct music ambassadors from Manchester, Newcastle, Liverpool and London, and we are delighted to welcome them to the North East.

DJ LINE UP:  
IRFAN RAINY  
CRAIG WHITFIELD  
KEV HUTCHINSON  
DARREN LAWS  
ROBASCA



## First Light & Choreogata

### Thursday 27th February & Friday 28th February

Time: 7.45pm (both dates)  
Venue: Purcell Room, Southbank Centre  
Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX  
Tickets: £10 (concessions available)  
Box Office: 0844 875 0073  
[www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

Experience a triple bill of contemporary South Asian dance at the Southbank Centre this spring. Pioneering South Asian dance organisation Akademi, alongside GemArts and Kala Sangam, presents Seeta Patel's First Light, plus two new contemporary commissions created by the recipients of the Choreogata Artist Development Programme – Divya Kasturi and Urja Desai Thakore.

First Light is in an interplay between dance, music, light and space choreographed by Bharatanatyam dancer Seeta Patel and composed by John Metcalfe. This piece combines the aesthetics of contemporary and Bharatanatyam dance and takes inspiration from the age-old concepts of good overcoming evil, light overcoming darkness, and the divine female energy of the Hindu Goddess Durga.

Alongside First Light, the Choreogata recipients present two new pieces of work. FYP – Forgot Your Password by Divya Kasturi, exploring technology and virtual identity and Detox by Urja Desai Thakore who creates complex contemporary movements from classical Indian styles.





## Kushal Das and Kumar Bose

### Sunday 2nd March

Time: 7pm

Venue: Sage Gateshead, NRF Hall  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays,  
NE8 2JR

Tickets: £12 (concessions available)  
£33 Family ticket

Box Office: 0191 443 4661  
[www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

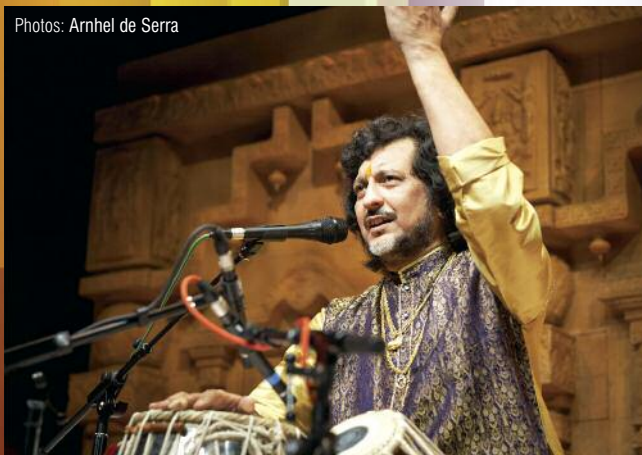
For years Ustad Vilayat Khan and Pandit Ravi Shanker seduced the world with performances on the iconic sitar. Pandit Kushal Das is now considered to be one of the main torchbearers of this instrument, leading the next generation of musicians. Das has gained recognition mesmerising audiences with his beautiful rendering of ragas like no other performer today. Pandit Kumar Bose, the legendary tabla maestro, provides his exhilarating improvised accompaniment. One of India's best known percussionists of today, Bose is another truly accomplished musician. A night of deeply moving ragas and melodic rhythms awaits you.

*"Shimmering and hypnotic ragas of staggering beauty"*

Time Out

Presented with Sage Gateshead  
In association with Darbar

Photos: Arnhel de Serra



## Vaisakhi Celebrations

### Saturday 26th April

Time: 7pm

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

Tickets: £5 family ticket  
(group of up to 5 people)

Box Office: 0191 440 4124

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minority Support Group and GemArts will be laying on a fantastic evening of music, food and good times at our annual Vaisakhi Festival. One of the most popular events in our community calendar, encouraging young and old to come out and enjoy an evening of great entertainment with live performances and DJ's.





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## Manjiri Asanare-Kelkar

### Wednesday 30th April

Time: 7.30pm  
Venue: Durham Town Hall  
Market Place, County Durham,  
DH1 3NJ  
Tickets: £10 (concessions available)  
Phone: 03000 266 600

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Vocalist Manjiri Asanare-Kelkar provides an exceptional evening of North Indian classical music in the intimate setting of Durham's Town Hall.

Born into a musical family, Manjiri has established herself as one of the most talented and acclaimed singers of her generation. Thanks to her highly refined and melodious voice, and the precision and imagination of her performances in the classical genre of khyal, she is in great demand as a soloist in India and abroad. Having sung at renowned international venues and festivals such as WOMAD and the BBC proms, we are thrilled to have her playing in Durham Town Hall.

In this rare performance by a top-class Indian artist, Manjiri will guide us on a journey into Indian raga music, accompanied – as is customary in the khyal genre – by tabla and harmonium.

Presented with Durham University



Photo: World Music Network

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## Making Tracks: Debashish Bhattacharya

### Friday 16th May

Time: 8pm  
Venue: Sage Gateshead, Hall Two  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays,  
NE8 2JR  
Tickets: £12.50 (concessions available)  
Box Office: 0191 443 4661  
[www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

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*“A perfect balance of poetry  
and virtuosity... creates  
an other-worldly space  
of filigree patterns,  
textures and colours.”*

(Evening Standard)

As a lap steel aficionado, as well as an innovative performer, Debashish Bhattacharya has been operating 'beyond the ragasphere' for decades. His unique take on Indian classical music has cemented an international career for over thirty years, modernising classical melodies and rhythms with multiple levels of percussion and lightning-fast group unison solos. Born in the pulsing city of Kolkata (Calcutta), Debashish was thrust into a musical world from an early age, practicing with his talented family and experimenting on his first Hawaiian steel guitar at the age of three.

We are thrilled to welcome this Grammy nominated performer to Sage Gateshead.

Presented with Sage Gateshead

*“The King of the sub-  
continental slide”*

(Songlines)



## Uday Bhawalkar

### Sunday 22nd June

Time: 7pm  
Venue: Sage Gateshead, NRF Hall  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays,  
NE8 2JR  
Tickets: £10 (concessions available)  
£25 Family ticket  
Box Office: 0191 443 4661  
[www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

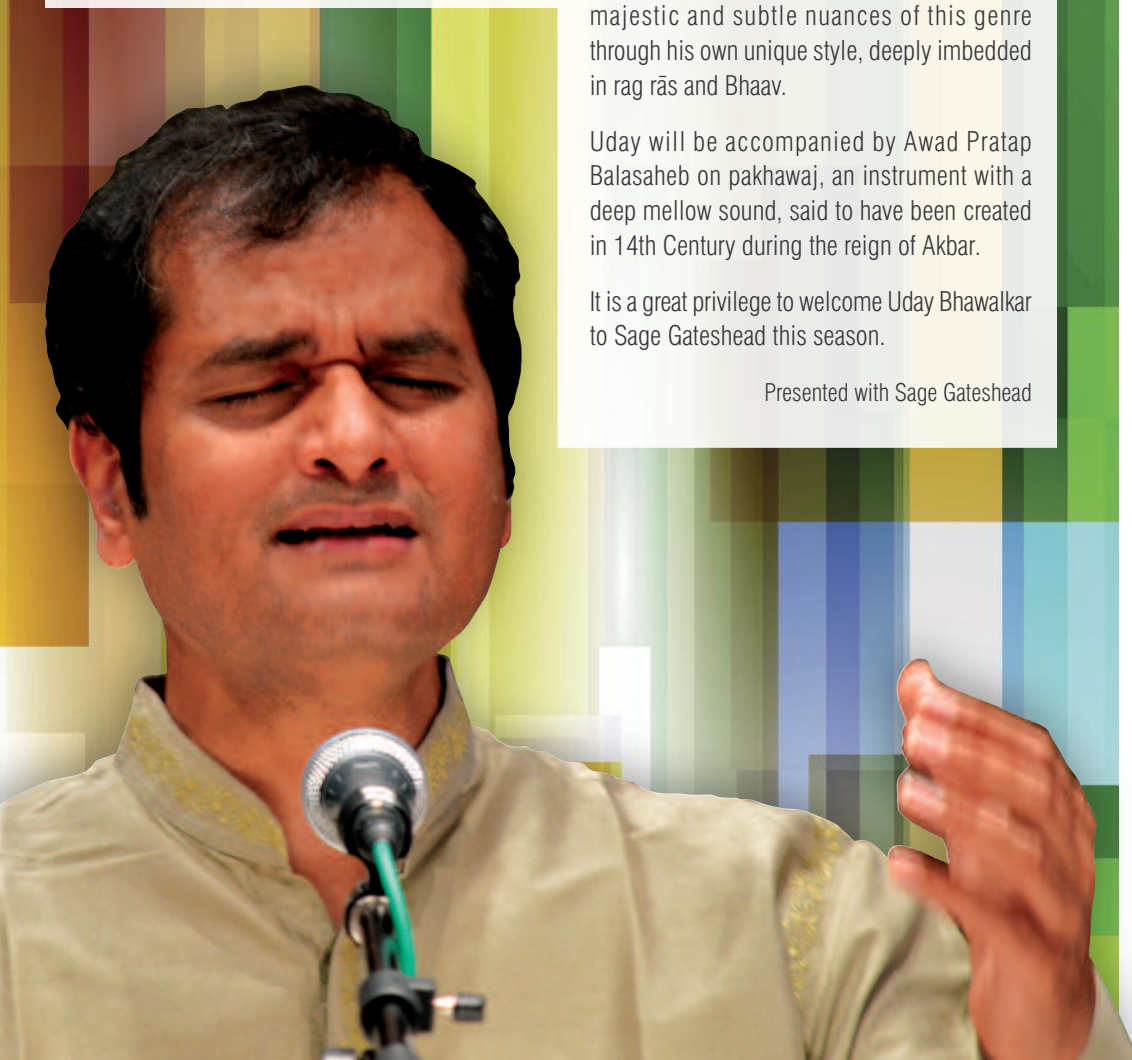
Uday Bhawalkar is a strong force in the growing recognition and popularity of Dhrupad, one of the oldest forms of North Indian Classical music. He passionately believes that by immersing oneself in the note, the self disappears and music takes on its own existence; the principle of 'darshan'.

We are delighted that Uday Bhawalkar will be joining us, sharing his passion, while providing the audience with the opportunity to immerse themselves in an evening of beautiful North Indian Classical Music. Uday will share the majestic and subtle nuances of this genre through his own unique style, deeply imbedded in rag rās and Bhaav.

Uday will be accompanied by Awad Pratap Balasaheb on pakhawaj, an instrument with a deep mellow sound, said to have been created in 14th Century during the reign of Akbar.

It is a great privilege to welcome Uday Bhawalkar to Sage Gateshead this season.

Presented with Sage Gateshead



# GET CREATIVE BE INSPIRED ENJOY EXPERIENCE LEARN PARTICIPATE!

GemArts delivers high quality arts projects with people of all ages and backgrounds, extending their experience of World Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts. Workshops enable participants to develop new skills and interests whilst working alongside professional artists.

### For Schools and Community Groups

Participants take part in 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.

Projects are tailored to the group's interests, needs, timescale and budget, providing educational, creative 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 is 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 may require a current DBS check.

Visit [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org) for further information  
or contact GemArts on **0191 440 4124**  
or email [info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)



# GemArts PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

## Thursday 6th February, 7.45pm **Harjinderpal Singh Matharu**

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£5 on the door before 11pm (£7 after 11pm)  
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Purcell Room, Southbank Centre  
Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX  
£10 (concessions available)  
0844 875 0073 / [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

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£10 (conc available) / £25 Family ticket  
0191 443 4661 / [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

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

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**[www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org)**



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