



**Gem Arts**

Creating and Profiling Diverse Arts

Autumn / Winter 2012

## Welcome to GemArts' Autumn / Winter 2012 Season.

What a brilliant summer we've had, as well as GemArts bringing you a packed programme of performances and festivals we've had an amazing time supporting and celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Cultural Olympiad, Olympics and Paralympics – wow!

Okay, weather wise, it has been a typical British summer with more rain than sun, but here at GemArts we promise you an extended Indian summer as our September programme begins at The Sage Gateshead with two outstanding international musicians, Murad Ali on sarangi, and Grammy nominated, Ustad Shujaat Khan on sitar.

As the autumn nights draw in, we present a selection of beautiful evening ragas performed by leading classical vocalists from India, including the exceptional Sanjeev Abhyankar in October, and brothers Rajan and Sajan Misra in November.

November also marks two fantastic annual events; at the beginning of the month, we host our South Asian Dance Celebration at Dance City, which brings together community groups and professionals from across the North East as they perform and celebrate the richness of the regions' South Asian Dance styles; and later that month, Diwali, the festival of lights, with incredible performances by regional artists and musicians and delicious mouth watering food.

Our final concert in December is new work co-commissioned by GemArts. Svava-Kanti led by guitar virtuoso Simon Thacker, brings together four leading performers in Indian classical, contemporary Asian and Western classical music to combine two of the world's greatest and most diverse musical cultures.

As well as our concerts and performances there is a lot more on offer which you can get involved in. Please check out GemArts' website, facebook and twitter for further information and details on workshops and projects.

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

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



## Murad Ali

### Monday 24th September 2012

Time: **8pm**  
Venue: **The Sage Gateshead, NRF Hall**  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays,  
NE8 2JR  
Tickets: **£8** (concessions available)  
Box Office: **0191 443 4661**  
[www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

Known as the 'instrument of a hundred colours,' Murad Ali's sarangi recitals bloom with rare ragas through a family tradition spanning six generations of sarangi players. Murad has toured extensively and this concert is a rare chance to listen to this remarkable instrument. Murad has composed music for many Bollywood and art films. He is accompanied by the young vibrant tabla maestro, Gurdain Rayatt.

Presented with The Sage Gateshead and Darbar

**SPECIAL OFFER:** Purchase tickets for Murad Ali and Shujaat Khan and receive **£2 off each ticket.**  
(Please ring Ticket Office on **0191 443 4661** to take advantage of this offer)

## Shujaat Khan

### Friday 28th September 2012

Time: **8pm**  
Venue: **The Sage Gateshead, Hall 2**  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays,  
NE8 2JR  
Tickets: **£12** (concessions available)  
Box Office: **0191 443 4661**  
[www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

Ustad Shujaat Khan is among the top ranking North Indian classical musicians of his generation and for the first time will perform in the North East. This dexterous performer has packed in audiences at some of the world's leading venues and is particularly known for his unique interpretation of Sufi music which provides nuance, history and colour to his music. Son of the late legendary sitarist Ustad Vilayat Khan, Shujaat learnt his craft from his father and represents a new direction for sitar music. He has collaborated with exceptional artists including Bollywood legend Asha Bhosle, ace Hindustani vocalist Rashid Khan and jazz saxophonist Tim Ries among many others.

Accompanying Shujaat 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 and Darbar



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## Sanjeev Abhyankar

**Sunday 14th October 2012**

Time: 7.45pm

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

Tickets: £10 (concessions available)

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

[www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

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Sanjeev Abhyankar is an artist of international acclaim in the field of Hindustani (North Indian) Classical music and has been credited with inspiring a new generation of young audiences with his exceptional singing. He is a disciple of one of the great Indian vocalists Pandit Jasraj and has toured the world extensively as well as releasing over 60 solo albums. Sanjeev will sing a selection of beautiful Indian ragas accompanied by Ajinkya Joshi on the tabla and Tanmay Deochake on the harmonium.

Presented with Asian Artists Network



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## South Asian Dance Celebration

**Sunday 4th November 2012**

Time: 3pm

Venue: **Dance City, Temple Street,**  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4BR

Ticket: £4 (family of 4 people £12)

Box Office: 0191 261 0505

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An opportunity to experience the richness of the region's South Asian dance groups. An afternoon of Kathak, Bollywood, Odissi, Bharatanatyam and other dance styles by some of the best professionals and community groups in the North East.

Presented with Dance City



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## Rajan and Sajjan Misra

**Saturday 10th November 2012**

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: **Kings Hall, Armstrong Building,**  
**Newcastle University,** Kings Walk,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU

Tickets: £10 / £5 children under 16 years

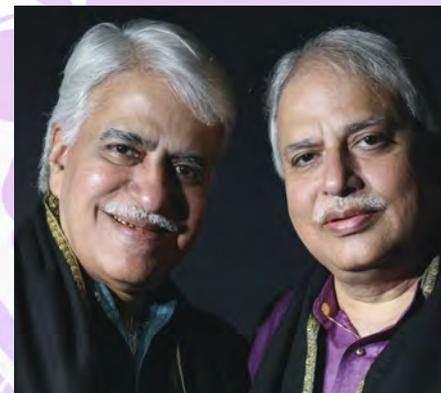
Box Office: 0191 440 4124

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Rajan and his younger brother Sajjan rank among India's finest musicians. These wonderful singers are from the artistic quarter known as Kabir Chaura in the ancient city of Varanasi. The hallmark of their style is the superb intonation, beautiful imagination and yet traditional approach to the music, in which they include old compositions as well as their own, using amazing vocal range and technique. They have been showered with numerous awards in India and are recognised all over the world for their artistry.

Accompanying the brothers will be two outstanding musicians, Rajkumar Misra on tabla, and on harmonium, Fida Hussain.

Presented with Newcastle University



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## Diwali Celebrations

**Saturday 17th November 2012**

Time: 7.30pm

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

Tickets: £5

Box Office: 0191 440 4124

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Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minority Support Group and GemArts will be laying on a fantastic evening of music, food and celebrations at our annual Diwali Festival.

Diwali, the festival of lights, is enthusiastically celebrated by people of all nationalities, races and religions; the festival marks a new beginning, and a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill. So, round up your friends and family and join us for an evening of brilliant entertainment from regional musicians, performers and DJ's, plus delicious Indian food (included with the ticket).

## Simon Thacker's Svara-Kanti

Thursday 6th December 2012

Time: 8pm  
Venue: **The Sage Gateshead, Hall 2**  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays,  
NE8 2JR  
Tickets: £12 (concessions available)  
Box Office: 0191 443 4661  
[www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

The Indian-Western supergroup led by visionary guitar virtuoso Simon Thacker performs major new commissions by legendary American pioneer Terry Riley, British intercultural master Nigel Osborne, India's greatest composer Shrish Korde and Simon Thacker in one of the most ambitious and wide ranging Indian-Western programmes ever assembled.

Also featuring the beautiful voice of Japjit Kaur, renowned tabla player Sarvar Sabri, who has a musical lineage stretching back ten generations to the Royal Court of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, and acclaimed international violinist and leader of Britten Sinfonia Jacqueline Shave.

Svara-Kanti brings together four leading performers in Indian classical, contemporary Asian and Western classical music to combine two of the world's greatest and most diverse musical cultures, creating powerful new music using the classical, folk, spiritual and film music traditions of India as a basis.

*"What particularly impresses is the sheer cohesion of the playing, with Thacker proving an acutely stylish and sensitive fulcrum for an often mesmerising melding of old and new, Indian and Western."* **The Classical Review**

Co-commissioned by GemArts  
Presented with The Sage Gateshead



# GET CREATIVE BE INSPIRED ENJOY EXPERIENCE LEARN PARTICIPATE!



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

# PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

**Monday 24th September 8pm**

## **MURAD ALI**

The Sage Gateshead, NRF Hall,  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays, NE8 2JR  
£8 (concessions available)  
0191 443 4661 / [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

**Friday 28th September 8pm**

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0191 443 4661 / [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

**Sunday 4th November 3pm**

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Dance City, Temple Street,  
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£4 (family of 4 people £12)  
0191 261 0505

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## **RAJAN AND SAJAN MISRA**

Kings Hall, Armstrong Building,  
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£10 / £5 children under 16 years  
0191 440 4124

**Saturday 17th November 7.30pm**

## **DIWALI CELEBRATIONS**

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**Thursday 6th December 8pm**

## **SIMON THACKER'S SVARA-KANTI**

The Sage Gateshead, Hall 2,  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays, NE8 2JR  
£12 (concessions available)  
0191 443 4661 / [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

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](mailto:info@gemarts.org) | Web: [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org)**

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