



Gem Arts

Creating and Profiling Diverse Arts

Autumn 2013

Welcome to GemArts' Autumn 2013 Season

Every six months I sit down to write this foreword to our brochure and it never fails to surprise me how fast the seasons fly by. It always gives me great pleasure to announce our upcoming programme which year on year brings diverse artists of international repute direct to the North East as well as profiling talent from the region. This season is no exception, and as you'll see from the pages to follow we are not about to slow down any time soon.

The season begins in September with back to back Indian Classical performances at Sage Gateshead. Nirmalya Dey presents brilliant Hindustani singing in the Dhrupad Style; followed by sitar player, Anupama Bhagwat, a rising star on the classical scene. Don't miss the special ticket offer!

We also present two outstanding and original works co-commissioned by GemArts: *Beneath the Surface*, a new play about British Asian gay lives; and *Jugni* by Sonia Sabri Company, a powerful contemporary Kathak performance in the high-energy style of qawwali.

Our Monday evening concert series with Durham University continues in October with the exceptional Arnab Chakrabarty on sarod at Durham Town Hall.

November marks the festive period as we celebrate Diwali with our annual celebrations at Gateshead Civic Centre. To get us in the festive spirit we have two performances at Sage Gateshead: the incredible Arun Ghosh's IndoJazz Sextet, an ensemble made up of the cream of musicians from both jazz and South Asian music traditions; and the legend that is Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, one of the finest sitar players alive today, as he performs for the very first time in the region – a real treat for the North East!

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to announce two new commissions with artists from the region. We are working with artist Isabel Lima to develop *Double Dutch*, a film and live performance that represents the process of seeking asylum from the perspective of both the refugees and the caseworkers. The second commission, *The Somnambulists*, is a film shot on location in Mumbai and inspired by film maker Reuben Abraham's own experience of being raised in the city, and the lasting influence this has had long after his immigration to the UK. *Double Dutch* will be presented at Platforma Conference in Manchester in November and *The Somnabulist* has been chosen for national broadcast on Channel 4 as part of *Random Acts*. Both new commissions will soon be shown in venues near you in the coming months so keep a look out for further information!

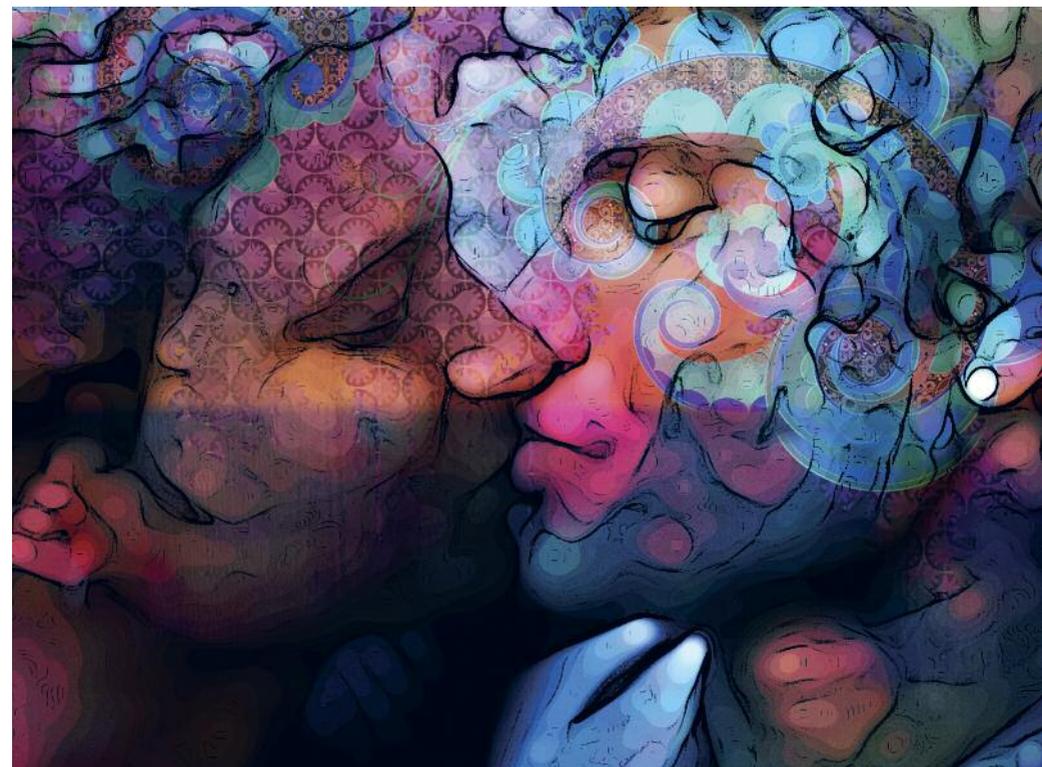
On behalf of everyone at GemArts we look forward to seeing you soon.

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.



Beneath the Surface **Saturday 28th September**

Time: 6pm

Tickets: £3

Box Office:

www.yoursafar.wordpress.com/bookings

Venue: **Pride Café,**
The Community Space (upstairs),
22-24 Scotswood Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7JB.

I thought there was no such thing as love...

Watch extracts from a new play about British Asian gay lives and take part in an informal creative discussion about the stories and themes which arise from the performance.

Performers: Dharmesh Patel and Rochi Rampal.

Written by Cal Miller; Directed by Steve Johnstone and Kate Chapman; Produced by Bobby Tiwana.

Commissioned by GemArts
In partnership with MESMAC North East and Pride Café.

Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Nirmalya Dey

Sunday 22nd September

Time: 7pm

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

Tickets: £10 (concessions available)
Plus ticket offer...

Box Office: 0191 443 4661
www.sagegateshead.com

Dhrupad predates the Hindustani (north) and Carnatic (south) traditions of today but sadly there are merely a handful of remaining practitioners, making this exceptional vocal concert by Nirmalya Dey a rare treat.

When performing in this style Dey brings alive a quote made famous by his guru, Ustad Fariddudin Dagar's. "When I close my eyes and begin to sing, there is only darkness... slowly, light comes, then the beginnings of colour."

Accompanying Dey will be Surdarshan Singh on Jori.

Presented with Sage Gateshead

Anupama Bhagwat

Sunday 29th September

Time: 7pm

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

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In her North East debut performance, Bhagwat plays the sitar with vigour that is the hallmark of her Imdadkhan Gharana the famous North Indian tradition of sitar and surbahar ("bass sitar") music. When Bhagwat first appeared on the classical platform, audiences and musicians were left wondering where a musician of such skills had come from out of the blue.

Her pioneering development on the sitar continues to leave audiences in awe. Her tremendous control, love for the raga and virtuosic ability is a sheer delight to listen to.

Anupama is accompanied by Gurdain Rayatt, the UK's rising star of tabla.

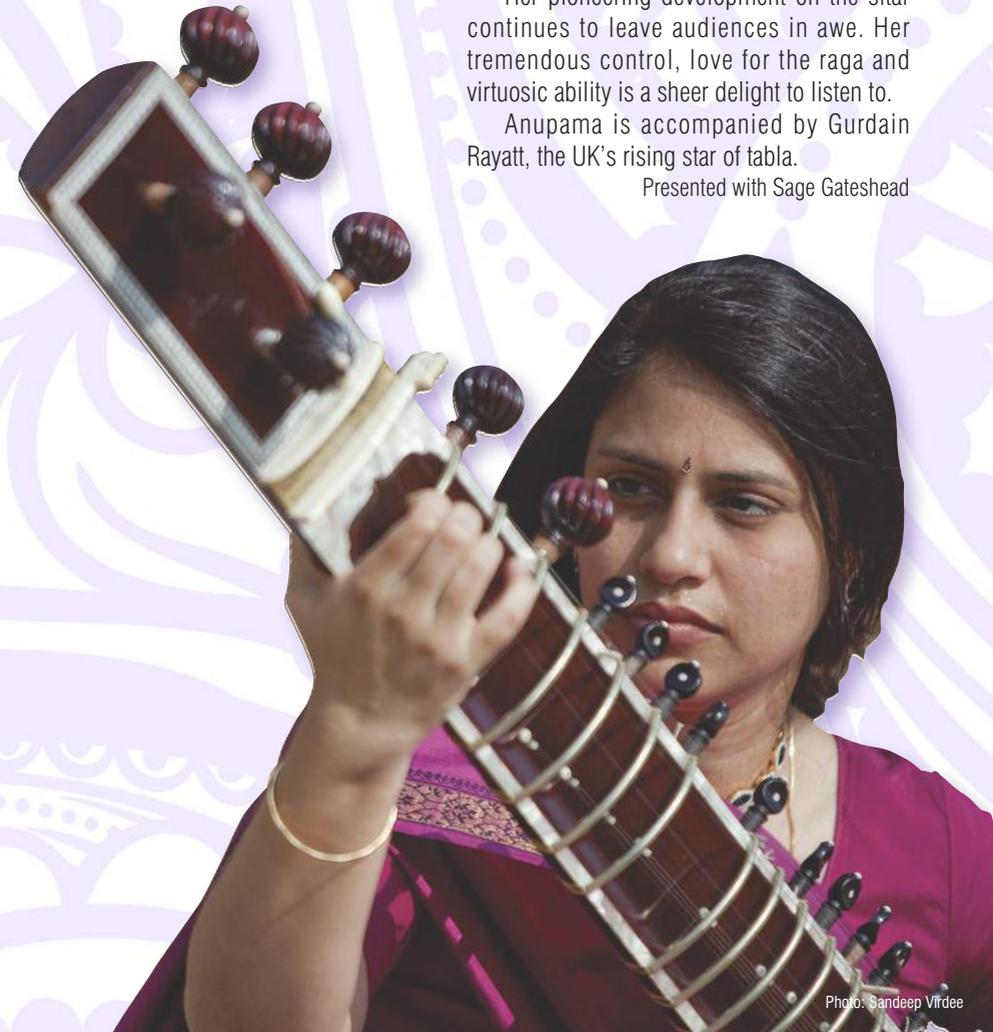
Presented with Sage Gateshead

TICKET OFFER

Purchase tickets for
Nirmalya Dey and
Anupama Bhagwat
and receive

**£2 OFF
EACH TICKET**

Offer not available online
Please call
Ticket Office on
0191 443 4661
to book tickets



Hybrid Dance Masterclass with Sonia Sabri

Monday 7th October

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

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

Tickets: Free
(places are limited to 10 participants)

Box Office: 0191 261 0505
www.dancecity.co.uk

GemArts brings to Dance City critically acclaimed dancer, choreographer and Artistic Director, Sonia Sabri for an exclusive dance master class.

Sonia has an international reputation for collaboration across dance styles and art forms including work with pioneers Richard Alston, Shobana Jeyasingh, Nitin Sawhney, Rose English, Jonzi D, Tigerstyle, and many more.



The master class will be high-energy and physically demanding, focusing on blending Kathak and contemporary dance techniques. It will look at different methods of working, creativity, structured tasks and composition.

Suitable for professional and advanced dancers from both contemporary and Kathak backgrounds, as well as second & third year dance undergraduates.



Sonia Sabri Company: Jugni Saturday 12th October

Time: 8pm

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

Tickets: £12 / Concessions £8

Box Office: 0191 261 0505
www.dancecity.co.uk

Jugni (meaning female firefly in Sufi poetry and Punjabi folk music) brings together dance and music with soaring live vocals and percussion inspired by Qawwali, and exquisite contemporary choreography driven by the power of Kathak technique. Celebrated for presenting Kathak through bold new ways, Sonia Sabri Company illuminates personal experiences through intricate play of movement, rhythm and rhyme contributed by women from all over the UK. Choreographer Sonia Sabri and Musical Director Sarvar Sabri build a heartfelt collaboration of a predominantly female cast of renowned artists making Jugni one of the most inspirational productions of the year.

Co-commissioned by GemArts.
Presented with Dance City

Arnab Chakrabarty: Ode to the Sarode

Monday 14th October

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Durham Town Hall,
Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NE

Tickets: £10 / Concessions £5

Box Office: 0191 440 4124
info@gemarts.org

An evening to escape the demands of daily life and turn your attention to the deep, introspective sound of the sarode, an instrument that is powerful, majestic and yet fluid at the same time.

Arnab Chakrabarty is highly renowned musician with few that equal his virtuosity on the sarode, a fretless lute used in north Indian classical music. Arnab's performances reflect his training from great maestros to which he continues to add his own personal touch to create a unique sound that is deep and meaningful with exquisite tonal qualities that truly release the rasa (essence) of the r g. He is accompanied by an equally passionate musician, Bhupinder Singh Chaggar on Tabla, who will frame this evening of pure Classical Music which originates from North India and now colours the world, with its freedom of expression.

Presented with Durham University



Photo: Daniel Zafir

Arun Ghosh Sextet
featuring **Zoe Rahman:**
A South Asian Suite

Friday 1st November

Time: 8pm

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

Tickets: £12 (concessions available)

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

www.sagegateshead.com

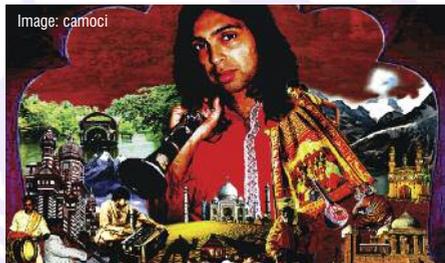


Image: carmoci

Three years since his stunning debut at Gateshead International Jazz Festival, Arun Ghosh returns with his trademark IndoJazz sound, featuring the MOBO Award winning pianist, Zoe Rahman.

The British-Asian clarinetist and composer has become a leading light on both the national and international jazz scene, captivating audiences and critics with his passionate and dynamic performance style, eloquent musical expression and a healthy dose of rock 'n' roll spirit.

The Arun Ghosh Sextet will be performing Ghosh's IndoJazz chamber work, the recently recorded 'A South Asian Suite'. This mesmeric and enchanting six movement suite is inspired by the music, landscape and people of Nepal, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, as seen from the viewpoint of a British-Asian from a Northern town.

"...an upfront mix of South Asian melodies and western street-grooves, driven by a powerful Indo-western rhythm section"

The Guardian

Presented with Sage Gateshead
and Jazz North East



Photo: William Ellis

Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan
Friday 8th November

Time: 8pm

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

Tickets: £12 (concessions available)

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Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan is one of the finest sitar players alive today. His dazzling virtuosity and innovative genius have earned him a legacy as a giant of the sitar.

Parvez learned his craft from his father, Ustad Aziz Khan, and enjoys an impeccable pedigree. He is a seventh generation heir to the sitar's first family, the Etawah Gharana.

The power of his music is most immediately encountered in the highly charged sound quality he conjures from his Sitar, his immaculate rhythm and the sparkling intelligence that is the hallmark of his improvisation skills. He is a musical maestro with a global reputation, with



appearances at festivals worldwide and a host of international awards. Experience exquisite melodies played with technical perfection in this memorable concert!

Parvez will be accompanied by one of the UK's leading tabla artists, Pandit Rajkumar Misra.

Presented with Sage Gateshead





Diwali Celebrations

Saturday 16th November

Time: 7pm
Venue: Gateshead Civic Centre,
Regent Terrace, Gateshead, NE8 1HH
Tickets: £5 group ticket for up to 5 people
Box Office: 0191 440 4124
info@gemarts.org

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group and GemArts present their annual Vaisakhi Celebrations. Join in the festivities with friends and family; enjoy mouth watering Indian food and brilliant performances from regional musicians, DJs and dancers bringing you the very best in Bollywood and Bhangra.

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, Animation, Photography and lot lots more.

Projects 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.

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

GemArts Programme at a Glance

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

**GemArts, Old Town Hall,
West St., Gateshead, NE8 1HE**

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

Web: **www.gemarts.org**

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