



**GEMARTS**

Creating and Profiling Diverse Arts

Spring / Summer 2016

## Welcome to GemArts' Spring Summer 16 Season

GemArts presents another exceptional season of superb vocalists, outstanding instrumentalists, mesmerising dancers and lots of family fun, celebrating diverse art forms from around the world.

The Spring Summer season begins with GemArts Mini Mela at Caedmon Hall, a family event offering hands on art activity for everyone to get involved with. Families will also come together for our popular Vaisakhi Celebrations which take place in April.

Our concert season covers music and styles from across India, beginning with Ranjani Ramachandran's exquisite north Indian khayal vocals at Durham University. This seasons Riverside Ragas concerts include Sanjay Subrahmanyam's wonderful south Indian Carnatic vocals, Deepa Nair's musical tributes to the poetry of Sufi mystics, and finally a truly inspiring sitar and cello duet from husband and wife Shubhendra and Saskia Rao. Make sure to check out our free pre-concert talks and special ticket offers when booking for more than one GemArts Riverside Ragas concert at Sage Gateshead.

As part of Gateshead International Jazz Festival we're delighted to welcome back acclaimed clarinetist and composer Arun Ghosh this April. An experienced performer and music teacher, we're also looking forward to working with Arun on a special schools project while we have him in the region.

GemArts is helping friends at The Bowes Museum ensure the British Museum's fantastic exhibition From Temple to Home: Celebrating Ganesha is another huge success for the museum when it visits Co Durham May – September 2016.

For fans of dance we wrap up this season with a beautiful showcase of Indian dance forms, bringing two exceptional UK based performers of classical kathak and odissi dance to Newcastle.

Alongside this exciting performance programme GemArts continues to offer opportunities for everyone to experience the arts through participatory sessions, with special offers for group bookings, student discount and pre-concert talks and demonstrations, not to mention the return of regular Kuchipudi dance and Indian vocal workshops. We work hard to introduce diverse arts to as many people as possible. More information in the brochure, and as always keep checking [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org) for updates.

This is just a snapshot, read on for the full programme. On behalf of everyone at GemArts, thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to welcoming you to this fantastic season of events.

**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.

## GemArts Mini Mela

Thursday 18th February 2016

**Time:** 10am – 2pm

**Venue:** Caedmon Hall,  
Gateshead Central Library

**FREE EVENT**

GemArts exciting Mini Mela returns this season, an event packed full of family fun. Expect hands on visual art, dance and music activities from around the world. Some good friends will also be sharing information on their great work and services available across Gateshead, as well as stalls selling gifts and a few extra treats to be enjoyed on the day.

African drumming and Indian dance workshops have limited capacity and places will be given on a first come basis. Please



Speak to a member of staff at the event to book your place.

Presented with Gateshead Council Culture Team.

## An evening of Indian Imagination: Ranjani Ramachandran

Tuesday 23rd February 2016

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Venue:** Wolfson Gallery,  
Palace Green Library, Durham

**Tickets\*:** £10, Students £4, Under 18s £1

**Box Office:** 0191 334 3140



Join GemArts for An Evening of Indian Imagination, when we bring Ranjani Ramachandran, a leading vocalist amongst classical singers of khyal, to Durham. Khyal, one of the most popularly performed vocal genres of Hindustani music in North India, attracts audiences across the globe. Having studied with eminent artists Ranjani regularly performs around the world, and has been awarded a number of distinguished prizes. Ranjani is faculty member of the Department of Hindustani Classical Music at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal. A recipient of the Charles Wallace Trust scholarship, supporting her time at Durham University, Ranjani is currently carrying out postdoctoral research on "Advanced techniques of analysis in khyal performance". This Musicon concert forms part of her residency in Durham.

Accompanying musicians Shahbaz Hussain – tabla, and Kaviraj Singh – harmonium.

Presented with Durham University.

## Riverside Ragas: Sanjay Subrahmanyam Sunday 6th March 2016

Time: 7pm Talk 7:45pm Performance

Venue: Sage Gateshead

Tickets\*: £12/£30 family ticket

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

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

Leading Carnatic vocalist Sanjay Subrahmanyam joins GemArts at Sage Gateshead for another Riverside Ragas concert. Sanjay began learning music at the age of seven, and has spent many years refining his vocal talent, bringing classical traditions to contemporary music. Having studied under highly influential gurus, performed widely in India and overseas and

won many awards for his work, Sanjay is himself an iconic inspiration to younger generations, and his fans are spread all over the globe. His music mixes the high authority and purity of tradition, with the creativity of an exceptionally gifted artist, and Sanjay's concerts delight audiences with the unpredictability and newness of each performance. Sanjay's intensive and exhaustive elaboration of unconventional ragas, is a unique feature of his work. Sanjay Subrahmanyam manages to harmonise the wisdom and stabilizing influences of Carnatic music's past with his own artistic and intellectual creativity.

Accompanying musicians, S. Varadarajan on Violin and Neyveli Venkatesh on Mridangam.

Join us for a pre-concert talk from 7pm, free to ticket holders.

Presented with Sage Gateshead



Image: Sanjay Subrahmanyam

Buy tickets  
for 2 Riverside  
Ragas concerts  
and receive  
**£2 off** each ticket  
(not applicable to  
Family Tickets).

## Gateshead International Jazz Festival Arun Ghosh

Friday 15th April 2016

Time: 7:45pm

Venue: Sage Two, Sage Gateshead

Tickets\*: £13.50

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

As part of Gateshead International Jazz Festival 2016 GemArts welcomes Arun Ghosh back to the region. The British-Asian clarinettist and composer has become a leading light on both the national and international jazz scene, captivating audiences and critics with his trademark IndoJazz sound, passionate and dynamic performance style, eloquent musical expression and a healthy dose of rock 'n' roll spirit. This appearance celebrates the band's release of a new EP in March and new music being created for Arun's forthcoming album.

"..uproarious and irresistible"  
The Daily Telegraph

Presented with Sage Gateshead



Image: William Ellis

## Vaisakhi Celebrations Saturday 23rd April 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: Bewicks,  
Gateshead Civic Centre,  
NE8 1HH  
(entrance from car park  
side of building)

Tickets: £3/ £10  
Family Ticket  
(group of up  
to 5 people)

Box Office: 0191 440 4124  
[info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)

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

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group (GVEMSG) and GemArts have organised another fantastic party to mark Vaisakhi. Join in the festivities with friends and family, expect plenty of

music, food and fun for all ages, including local performers and DJ's spinning the very best Bhangra and Bollywood tunes. Bring your dancing shoes! Ticket includes entry and a delicious Indian vegetarian meal.

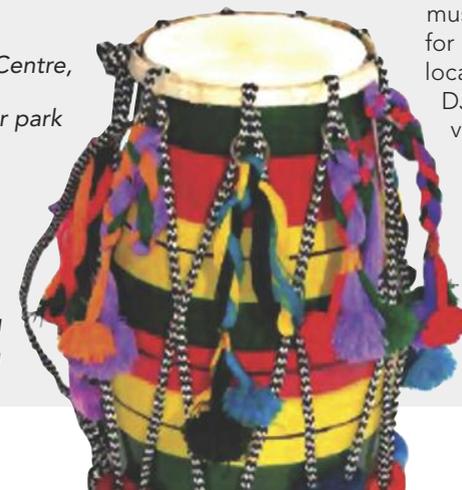




Image: The Bowes Museum

## From Temple to Home: Celebrating Ganesha

21st May – 18th September 2016

**Venue:** The Bowes Museum,  
Barnard Castle,  
County Durham DL12 8NP

**Tickets:** £10.50 Adult, £9.50 Concession,  
Free Children (Under 16)

**Box Office:** 01833 690606  
[www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk](http://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk)

**Info:** [www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/en-us/visitus/whatson/futureexhibitions](http://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk/en-us/visitus/whatson/futureexhibitions)

Our friends at The Bowes Museum bring yet another spectacular exhibition to the region, exploring the iconography of Ganesha. This vibrant, colourful exhibition, from the British Museum, centres on a large stone sculpture of the elephant-headed god Ganesha, depicted standing on a lotus petal. The arch supporting the figure is decorated with the mask of a lion, flanked by aquatic monsters.

Key objects include a painting showing Ganesha riding his mount, the rat 'Vahana', rare photographs, woodcuts and porcelain figures revealing different aspects of the iconography around this elephant-headed god.

Presented with The Bowes Museum, as part of the British Museum tour.

## Riverside Ragas: Sufi Songs – Deepa Nair

Friday 27th May 2016

**Time:** 7pm talk 7:45pm Performance

**Venue:** NRF Hall, Sage Gateshead

**Tickets\*:** £12/£30 family ticket

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

British-Indian singer songwriter, Deepa Nair Rasiya has been making waves on the World Music platform internationally, and is increasingly recognized as a pioneering and innovative composer with a deeply soul stirring vocal style.

Join GemArts on a musical journey, as Deepa pays tribute to the poetry of Sufi mystics across a range of styles of Indian music including classical, semi-classical, folk and contemporary. This concert explores the devotional sentiments and spiritual wisdom of Sufi poets through music, featuring the poetry of Amir Khusro, Baba Bulleh Shah, Hazrat Shah Hussain, Baba Fareed and tracks from Deepa's ground-breaking Sufi album titled 'DESTINATION' released July 2015.

Accompanying musicians Manjeet Singh Rasiya - Tabla; Surjeet Singh Aulakh - Sarangi; Siddharth Singh - Guitar; Nimrita Kaur Rasiya Keys and support vocals.

Join us for a pre-concert talk from 7pm, free to ticket holders.

Presented with Sage Gateshead.

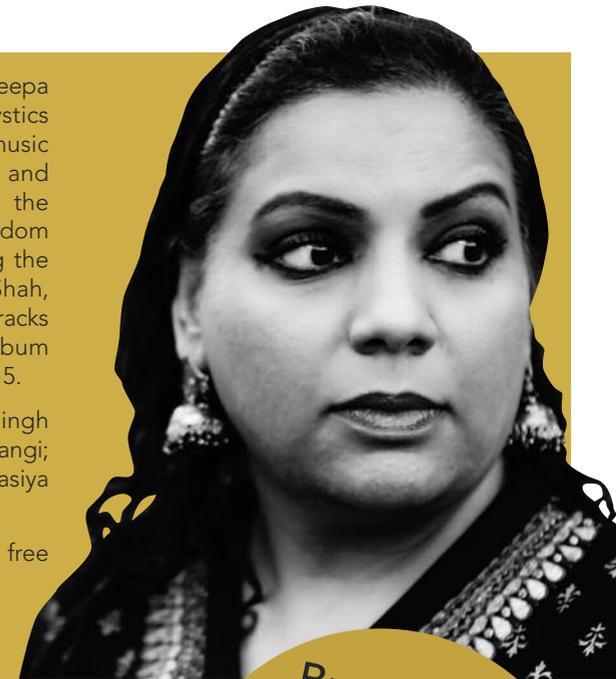


Image: Deep Nair Rasiya

Buy tickets for 2 Riverside Ragas concerts and receive £2 off each ticket (not applicable to Family Tickets).



Image: Shubendra Rao and Saskia Rao-de Haas

## Riverside Ragas: Shubendra Rao & Saskia Rao-de Haas

Sunday 19th June 2016

**Time:** 7pm Talk 7:45pm Performance

**Venue:** NRF Hall, Sage Gateshead

**Tickets\*:** £12/£30 family ticket

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

Together, Shubendra Rao and Saskia Rao-de Haas offer audiences a rare experience, as the pair carry Indian music towards new horizons. A protégé of legendary Maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, Shubendra is an unmatched master of the sitar, whose playing reminds the listener of classic performances transformed for today's era. Saskia Rao-de Haas is a brilliant cellist from the Netherlands, and considered a pioneer in

the music world for introducing her Indian cello to North Indian classical music.

On stage, Shubendra and Saskia's effortless musical communication and improvisation is a joyful experience, something which both Indian classical music fans and those new to the genre will find mesmerising.

Join us for a pre-concert talk from 7pm, free to ticket holders.

Presented with Sage Gateshead.

## My Soul Is Alight – Kathak and Odissi performance

Friday 24th June 2016

Time: 7:30 pm

Venue: Newcastle Performance Academy,  
Newcastle College, NE4 7SA

Tickets: £10 / £5 concession tbc

Box Office: GemArts 0191 440 4124  
or [info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)

Katie performs a duet with singer Ranjana Ghatak, based on the Bengali poet, Tagore's work, while Parbati dances to a Bach violin Partita. With vocalist Ranjana Ghatak and violinist May Robertson.

'...refined precision and quiet rapture...'  
Donald Hutera, Pulse magazine June 2015.

Presented with Kadam/Pulse.

\*booking fee may apply  
for concert tickets – see  
website for more details

Continuing GemArts commitment to profiling South Asian dance we present Kadam/Pulse's My Soul is Alight, a double bill of dance and music featuring two exceptional young British dancers, Parbati Chaudhuri (kathak) and Katie Ryan (odissi).

Audience members will enjoy two fascinating dance styles: kathak with its fluid movements, complex foot rhythms and rapidfire spins, and odissi, renowned for strength, grace and sculpture like stances. The contrasts and complementary qualities of the two styles unfold over the evening with the virtuosity of the technical pieces balanced by dramatic storytelling and emotive intensity. As the evening progresses you will see the evolution of the dance forms with their roots in the temples.

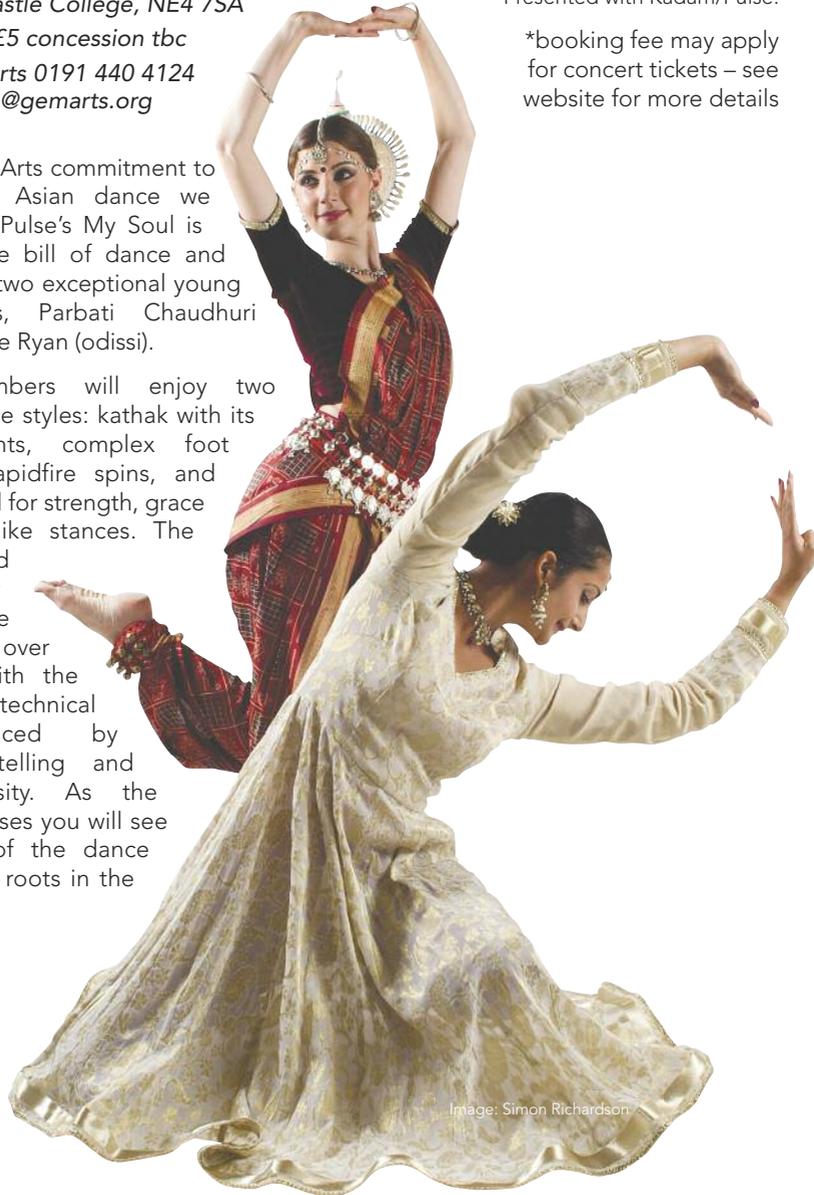


Image: Simon Richardson

## Regular group workshops

Indian Vocal workshops  
with Dr Vijay Rajput  
Begins February 2016

Cost: 6 week sessions £42  
(to be paid to GemArts ahead of  
first session)

Dates and venues to be confirmed, please  
contact GemArts on 0191 440 4124 or  
[info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org) to register your interest  
and we will update you once details are  
finalised.

GemArts is delighted to offer this rare opportunity to learn Indian Vocals from one of the north easts' exceptional talents. Dr Vijay Rajput is one of Britain's most talented Indian classical singers, a maestro of the 'khyal' style from the north Indian tradition and an artist of international repute, his performances have mesmerised audiences in India and abroad.

Workshops are open to everyone, no prior experience necessary.



Image: Dr Vijay Rajput

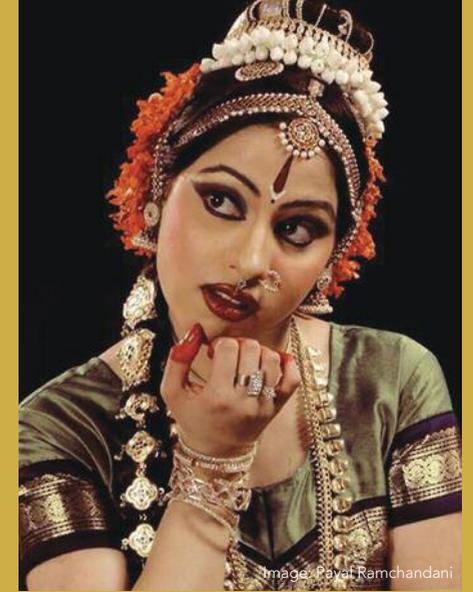


Image: Payal Ramchandani

Kuchipudi Dance workshops  
with Payal Ramchandani  
Begins February 2016

Cost: 6 week sessions £42  
(to be paid to GemArts ahead of  
first session)

Dates and venues to be confirmed, please  
contact GemArts on 0191 440 4124 or  
[info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org) to register your interest  
and we will update you once details are  
finalised.

GemArts is delighted to offer this introductory series of Kuchipudi Dance workshops with experienced dancer Payal Ramchandani in Newcastle. With a long list of international performances and awards under her belt, and having founded MRIJA to further promote Kuchipudi, Payal is the perfect teacher to introduce you to the richness of this South Indian dance form.

Workshops are open to everyone, no prior dance experience necessary, though participants do need to be comfortable balancing and holding poses for some time. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

GET CREATIVE  
BE INSPIRED  
ENJOY  
EXPERIENCE  
LEARN  
PARTICIPATE!



Each year GemArts delivers high quality arts projects for people of all ages and backgrounds, offering experience of World Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts from around the world. Our workshops enable participants to develop new skills and interests whilst working alongside professional artists.

## For Schools and Community Groups

Participants take part in workshops lasting from 1 hour tasters or diversity weeks to longer term projects. We offer a range of arts activity, including Bollywood and Street Dance, African Drumming, Chinese and Indian Arts, DJ and Lyric Writing, Textiles, Graffiti Art, Photography and much more.

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 different cultures.

Workshop costs depend on activity, group size and materials required for the art form chosen.

If you would like to book a GemArts artist, or discuss a project please contact Alexandra Marsden on 0191 440 4125 or [alexandra@gemarts.org](mailto:alexandra@gemarts.org)

## For Artists

GemArts is keen to hear from artists of all disciplines. To be added to GemArts freelance artist database, please send your up to date CV, covering letter and examples of your work to [info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)

GemArts is committed to offering opportunity for everyone to engage with culturally diverse arts. If you would like to support our work please consider making a donation. You can find out more on the Support Us page at [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org).

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)

# Support Us

GemArts' mission is to increase equality of opportunity for everyone to engage with culturally diverse arts. Each year we achieve this by:

- Programming 35 high profile events and exhibitions
- Reaching audience members from all backgrounds, around 99,000 last year
- Working with at least 150 individual artists across art forms
- Engaging participants in diverse workshops, over 13,500 last year

As a charity GemArts is reliant on raising funds from a range of sources. As a leading arts organisation we work in partnership with schools, community groups businesses and other organisations, using our expertise to deliver life enhancing arts projects, present exceptional high profile events and offer valuable diversity training and team building opportunities. We have a loyal audience, but also work tirelessly to introduce diverse arts to new audiences. GemArts wants to offer more people the chance to engage with and enjoy art from around the world, and you can help us achieve this.

## Individual Giving

Through generous donations GemArts ensures more people can access the arts, whether attending an event, taking part in workshops, or helping shape a longer term group project.

Donations of all sizes make a difference. A £5 donation can help us provide materials to enable a young person to learn about Chinese origami and traditions, and develop new skills they can share with others. The more money GemArts raise the more opportunities offered across the region, and the more lives we can help to improve.

Visit <http://gemarts.org/support-us> for more information.



## Corporate Members Club

GemArts work with businesses in a number of ways. Joining the Corporate Members Club supports GemArts' charitable work but also offers access to benefits which come from working alongside a leading diversity arts organisation.

Membership is tiered, starting at £150 per year, for businesses with 25 employees or less. To discuss GemArts Corporate Members Club contact Sinead Burke on 0191 440 4125 or [sinead@gemarts.org](mailto:sinead@gemarts.org)



## Sponsorship

GemArts has exciting plans ahead, many of which offer sponsorship opportunities around our performance and participatory programmes. If you would like to find out more about sponsorship opportunities please contact Sinead Burke or Vikas Kumar on 0191 440 4124.

\*additional costs may apply for some benefits

GemArts is part of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group (GVEMSG) registered charity no. 1008100 supporting BME, asylum seeker and refugee communities.

# GEMARTS AT A GLANCE

**Thursday 18th February**  
10am – 2pm

**GemArts Mini Mela**

Caedmon Hall,  
Gateshead Central Library

FREE EVENT

**Tuesday 23rd February**  
7:30pm

**An evening of Indian Imagination:**

**Ranjani Ramachandran**

Wolfson Gallery,  
Palace Green Library, Durham

£10\* / Students £4\* / Under 18s £1\*  
0191 334 3140

**Sunday 6th March**

7pm Talk 7:45pm Performance

**Riverside Ragas:**  
**Sanjay Subrahmanyam**

Sage Gateshead

£12\*/£30\* family ticket  
0191 443 4661  
www.sagegateshead.com

**Friday 15th April**  
7:45pm

**Gateshead International Jazz Festival**  
**Arun Ghosh**

Sage Two, Sage Gateshead  
£13.50\*  
0191 443 4661  
www.sagegateshead.com

**Saturday 23rd April**  
7:00 pm

**Vaisakhi Celebrations**

Bewicks, Gateshead Civic Centre,  
NE8 1HH  
(entrance from car park side of building)

£3/ £10 Family Ticket  
(group of up to 5 people)  
GemArts 0191 440 4124  
info@gemarts.org  
www.gemarts.org for information

**21st May – 18th September**

**From Temple to Home:**  
**Celebrating Ganesha**

The Bowes Museum,  
Barnard Castle,  
County Durham DL12 8NP  
£10.50 Adult, £9.50 Concession,  
Free Children (Under 16)  
01833 690606  
www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk  
Info: www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk  
/en-us/visitus/whatson/futureexhibitions

**Friday 27th May**

7pm talk 7:45pm Performance

**Riverside Ragas: Sufi Songs – Deepa Nair**

NRF Hall, Sage Gateshead  
£12\*/£30\* family ticket  
0191 443 4661  
www.sagegateshead.com

**Sunday 19th June**

7pm Talk 7:45pm Performance

**Riverside Ragas:**  
**Shubhendra Rao & Saskia Rao-de Haas**

NRF Hall, Sage Gateshead  
£12\*/£30\* family ticket  
0191 443 4661  
www.sagegateshead.com

**Friday 24th June**

7:30 pm

**My Soul Is Alight – Kathak and Odissi performance**

Newcastle Performance Academy,  
Newcastle College, NE4 7SA  
£10 / £5 concession tbc  
GemArts 0191 440 4124  
info@gemarts.org

\* booking fee may apply – see website for details

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

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

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

 Like us on Facebook **GemArts**  Follow us on Twitter **@GemArtsUK**



GemArts is part of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group (GVEMSG). GVEMSG is a registered charity. No 1008100.

Brochure information correct at time of print, we reserve the right to make changes if circumstances necessitate.

Design: Tommy Anderson / www.baselineshift.co.uk