



GEMARTS
Spring / Summer 2020

Welcome to GemArts' Spring Summer 2020 Season!

For GemArts a new year and decade brings with it new hope and exciting opportunities to work with more musicians, dancers and artists from the UK, South Asia and beyond to connect with our audiences.

Collaborating with partners and venues across the North East GemArts will be bringing our eclectic mix of the very best Indian Classical, Sufi and Jazz music, as well as spectacular family events and festival collaborations.

Launching the season at Middlesbrough Town Hall is Rafiki Jazz, a global collective of musicians presenting sweeping divine borderless music from their latest album. Continuing our programme at the venue is Simon Thacker's Svara-Kanti as he collaborates with mystical Bengali Baul folk musicians, and we also present leading santoor player Harjinderpal Singh.

GemArts will be celebrating Holi, the Indian spring festival of colours, with a series of concerts at Durham University featuring an excellent line up of international musicians and vocalists, and don't miss a new Sitar concerto by Jasdeep Singh Degun and Opera North, performed in the magnificent Durham Cathedral.

Building on our long term partnership with Sage Gateshead we are thrilled to bring the sensational Sufi and Punjabi singers Hashmat Sultana in March, and then later in the season, part of Gateshead International Jazz Festival 2020, there will be fantastic performances from Shri, Nikki Yeoh and Zoe Rahman.

As always, we have our ever popular family events including the Mini Mela and Vaisakhi Celebrations for all the community to enjoy, and to raise valuable funds for our charitable work.

We truly hope you are inspired by our rich cultural programme, and look forward to welcoming you to this season's incredible performances and events.

Vikas Kumar, MBE
Director

GemArts is an award winning arts organisation based in the North East of England. A nationally recognised leader in the South Asian and diversity arts sector, GemArts creates and programmes 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 shared 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 artists, producers, participants and audiences.

Rafiki Jazz Saturday 8th February

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Middlesbrough Town Hall,
Albert Rd, TS1 2QJ

Tickets: Free, but pre-booking essential

Box Office: www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk

Rafiki Jazz are a global collective of musicians performing music from their latest album, Saraba Sufiyana (meaning Mystic Utopia), a

recording that celebrates unity and diversity, crossing continents, languages and cultures.

Featuring inspirational Sufi singer Sarah Yaseen, ace Senegalese griot kora player Kadialy Kouyate, and Egyptian oud & ney virtuoso Mina Salama. Add in a hot and exotic backline of Caribbean steelpans, hi-life guitar, Carnatic violin & drone with Indian tabla & Brazilian berimbau, plus deep electric bass, and this amazing world music group's cross-continental trajectory is clear.



'Mesmerising... impressive, elegant & wide-ranging' (The Guardian)

Presented by GemArts and Middlesbrough Town Hall

Mini Mela Tuesday 18th February

Time: 11:30am – 3:30pm
(Relaxed session 10am – 11am*)

Venue: Caedmon Hall,
Gateshead Central Library,
NE8 4LN

Tickets: FREE Event, Just drop in!

Box Office: www.gemarts.org

Packed full of family fun, GemArts Mini Mela returns this February half term with arts, music and dance workshops from around the world... and it's all FREE, just drop in!

*A relaxed session will run between 10-11am

for visitors who may benefit from a quieter, relaxed environment. Booking required for relaxed session only, email info@gemarts.org or call 0191 440 4124.

Presented by GemArts and Gateshead Culture Team

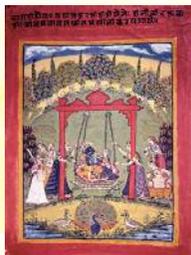


photo: Anna Miller

Indian Spring Colours

Saturday 29th February – Monday 2nd March

As we approach Holi, the Indian spring festival of colours, join GemArts to mark the season with a series of concerts in partnership with MUSICON at Durham University. The spring is celebrated in the Indian arts as a time of new life, playfulness



and the appreciation of beauty, and Indian music is perfectly adapted to capture these moods. Whatever the weather outside, immerse yourself in our celebration of the coming spring with superb exponents of the classical tradition.

Apoorva Gokhale (vocal)

Saturday 29th February

Time: 6:45pm Talk / 7:30pm Performance

Venue: Durham University,
Department of Music,
Palace Green

Tickets: £10 / Students £4 / Under 18's £1

Box Office: www.musicdurham.org/musicon

Apoorva Gokhale is a rising star of the Indian music scene, who brings to the stage her own interpretation of her rich family legacy of Khyal singing, with its combination of dignity, grace and lyricism.

She is accompanied by two of India's premier performers on harmonium and tabla, Seema and Vishwanath Shirodkar.



Chiranjeeb Chakraborty (vocal) with 'Swar-Taal Samvad'

Sunday 1st March

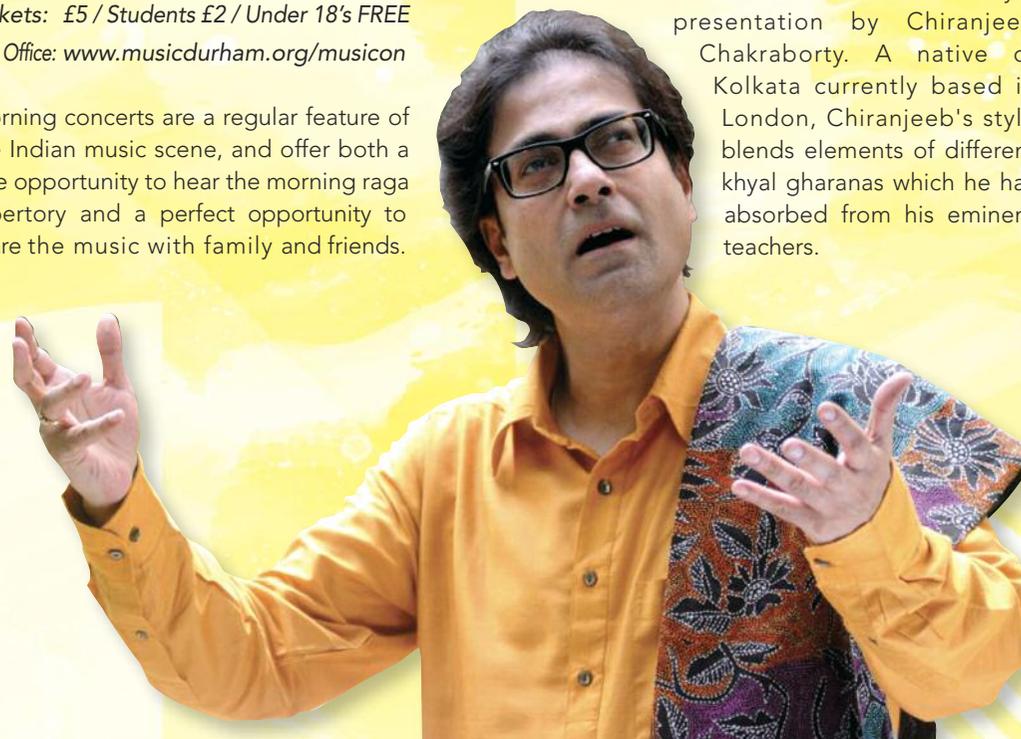
Time: 11:00am

Venue: Durham University,
Department of Music,
Palace Green

Tickets: £5 / Students £2 / Under 18's FREE

Box Office: www.musicdurham.org/musicon

Morning concerts are a regular feature of the Indian music scene, and offer both a rare opportunity to hear the morning raga repertory and a perfect opportunity to share the music with family and friends.



We begin this concert with Seema and Vishwanath Shirodkar taking centre stage as 'Swar-Tala Duo'. Harmonium and Tabla are both traditionally treated as 'accompanying' instruments, although there is a long tradition of tabla solo performance: harmonium solo is a newer phenomenon, but a revelation for music-lovers in the hands of a brilliant musician such as Seema Shirodkar. In this part we will enjoy the beautiful and energising music of these two masters.



The second item will be a khyal presentation by Chiranjeeb Chakraborty. A native of Kolkata currently based in London, Chiranjeeb's style blends elements of different khyal gharanas which he has absorbed from his eminent teachers.



photo: Arnell de Serra

Roopa Panesar (sitar) and Bhupinder Chaggar (tabla)

Monday 2nd March

Time: 6:45pm Talk / 7:30pm Performance

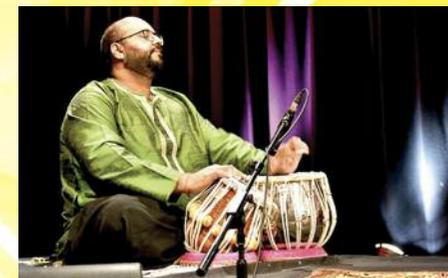
Venue: St Chad's College Chapel,
18 North Bailey, Durham

Tickets: £10 / Students £4 / Under 18's £1

Box Office: www.musicdurham.org/musicon

For our final Indian Spring Colours concert series we present Roopa Panesar, one of the finest Sitar players to emerge on the Indian music scene in the UK. Trained from a very young age by the great educationalist and sitar maestro Ustad Dharambir Singh MBE, Roopa has established herself as an outstanding and much-loved performer. This is a rare opportunity to hear a top-quality sitar performance in Durham.

Roopa will be accompanied by Bhupinder Chaggar on tabla.



Hashmat Sultana

Monday 2nd March

Time: 8:00pm

Venue: Sage Gateshead, Sage 2, NE8 2JR

Tickets*: £13.60 to £19.10 /
Family ticket available

Box Office: 0191 443 4661

www.sagegateshead.com

Hashmat Sultana are the most sensational contemporary Sufi and Punjabi singers to emerge from India recently.

Propelled into the limelight in 2016 as part of major Indian TV talent show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, the duo received rave reviews. The talented 'Sufi sisters' have become a YouTube sensation with their song Rang receiving over 25 million views, appealing to a new generation of audiences globally with their powerful vocal performances and incredible versatility that shows maturity beyond their years.



Don't miss Hashmat Sultana with a full live band for what promises to be an exhilarating evening of Sufi and Punjabi music!

Presented by

GemArts, Sage Gateshead and Asian Arts Agency



photo: Kabilan Raviraj

Arya

Thursday 5th March

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Durham Cathedral

Tickets*: £18 full price / £15 concession

Box Office: <https://www.operanorth.co.uk/whats-on/arya-concert/>

A unique evening of sitar, orchestra and choral music.

Conducted by Harish Shankar, the Orchestra and Chorus of Opera North join forces for this wide-ranging and powerful concert. At its heart is a newly commissioned concerto from composer and sitar virtuoso Jasdeep Singh Degun, in which the complex rhythms and gorgeous melodies of Indian

classical raag strike up conversations with the orchestra, as the sitar by turns draws in, creates quickfire exchange with and finally comes harmoniously together with the orchestra.

The concerto is paired with the full force of the Chorus of Opera North, whose programme includes the delicately beautiful Humming Chorus from Puccini's Madama Butterfly, Purcell's exquisite Dido's Lament, extracts from La traviata and The Magic Flute, and concludes with Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music.

'the most sought-after Indian classical musician in the UK at the moment.' Pulse Magazine

Presented in association with GemArts

Simon Thacker's Svara-Kanti

Saturday 14th March

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Middlesbrough Town Hall,
Albert Rd, TS1 2QJ

Tickets: Free, but pre-booking essential

Box Office: www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk

Simon Thacker's Svara-Kanti unites India, Bangladesh and the UK in its powerful incarnation expanding on the mystical Bengali Baul folk tradition.



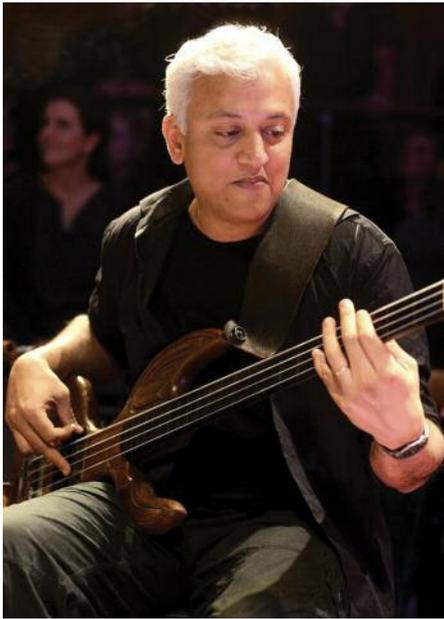
photo: Akhil Khatri

Scottish classical guitarist/composer Simon Thacker's innate gift for reinvention and expansion comes together with one of the sub continent's spiritually and musically richest forms. The group features Bangladeshi Baul singer Farida Yesmin, singer and khomok virtuoso Raju Das Baul, from the Indian Baul heartland of Santiniketan, and Kolkata's Sunayana Ghosh, one of a growing number of exceptional female tabla exponents.

Baul culture is one of the longest surviving examples of wandering minstrelsy, imbued with mysticism and universal messages of love and truth.

Presented by

GemArts and Middlesbrough Town Hall



Gateshead Jazz 2020

Shri Feat: Bugge Wesseltoft, Ben Castle & Asaf Sirkis

Saturday 21st March

Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Sage Gateshead, Sage 2, NE8 2JR
Tickets*: £5 - £17.20
Box Office: 0191 443 4661
www.sagegateshead.com

Shri Sriram, a BASCA British Composer Award winner was pioneer of the Asian Underground scene with Outcaste Records and ground-breaking electronic / trip-hop duo Badmarsh & Shri. He'll perform tracks from his latest album The Letter with an all-star line-up of jazz accomplices Bugge Wesseltoft, Ben Castle & Asaf Sirkis.

*Presented by
Sage Gateshead and GemArts*

Gateshead Jazz 2020

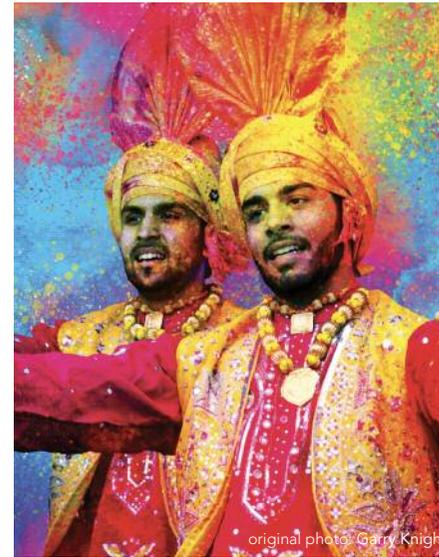
Nikki Yeoh and Zoe Rahman

Sunday 22nd March

Time: 4:00pm
Venue: Sage Gateshead, Sage 2, NE8 2JR
Tickets*: £5 - £17.20
Box Office: 0191 443 4661
www.sagegateshead.com

Recognised as two of the most ground-breaking contemporary jazz composers of their generation, pianists Nikki Yeoh and Zoe Rahman will have you at the edge of your seat as they share their talents across two grand pianos.

*Presented by
Sage Gateshead and GemArts*



Vaisakhi

Saturday 25th April

Time: 7:00pm – 11:00pm
Venue: Bewicks,
Gateshead Civic Centre, NE8 1HH
(entrance from car park side of building)
Tickets: £5 pp/ £15 Group
(up to 4 people)
Box Office: www.gemarts.org
or call 0191 440 4124

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group and GemArts present our annual Vaisakhi celebrations. Join in the festivities with friends and family, expect music, delicious Indian food and fun for all ages, including local performers and DJ's spinning the very best Bhangra and Bollywood tunes.

Look out for raffle prizes, henna artists and other opportunities to have fun while raising money for our valuable work with communities in Gateshead and across the North East.

Harjinderpal Singh Matharu (santoor)

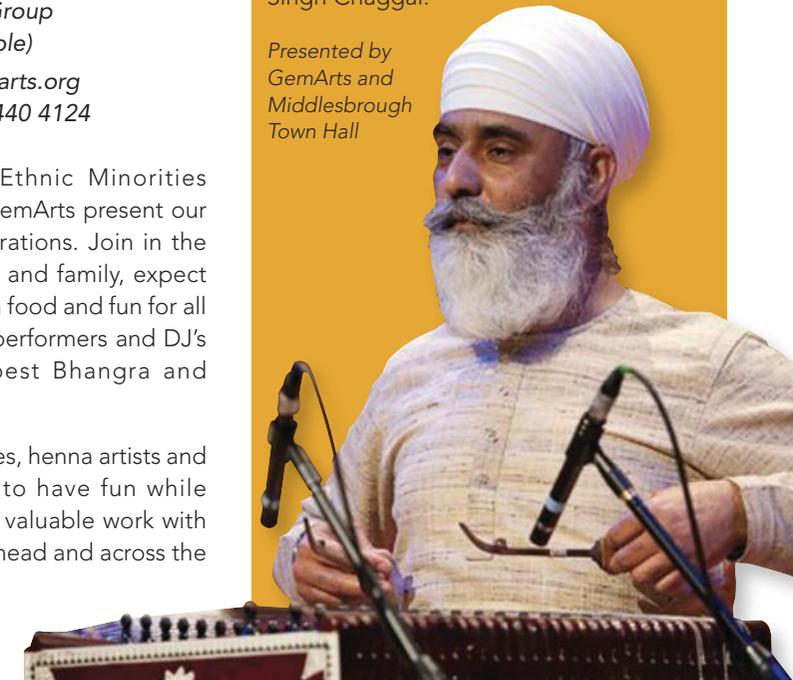
Friday 15th May

Time: 7:30pm
Venue: Middlesbrough Town Hall,
Albert Rd, TS1 2QJ
Tickets: Free, but pre-booking essential
Box Office: www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk

Harjinderpal Singh Matharu is among Europe's leading santoor players. A senior disciple of maestro Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, Harjinderpal learnt to play the santoor under his tutelage and has become one of its leading exponents.

The santoor is a hundred stringed instrument from the valleys of Kashmir, this complex instrument produces a delicate and beautiful trance-like sound. Harjinderpal will perform a selection of exquisite Hindustani (North Indian) ragas accompanied by tabla virtuoso, Bhupinder Singh Chaggar.

*Presented by
GemArts and
Middlesbrough
Town Hall*



GET CREATIVE
BE INSPIRED
ENJOY
EXPERIENCE
LEARN
PARTICIPATE!



Photo: Anna Miller

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

For Schools and Community Groups

Workshops from 1 hour tasters to longer term projects, offering a range of arts activity, including Bollywood Dance, African Drumming, Chinese and Indian Visual Arts, Lyric Writing, Textiles, Aerosol Art, Photography and much more. GemArts also deliver projects to raise awareness, celebrate culture and identity, and tackle important issues.

Projects are tailored to a group's interests, needs, timescale and budget, providing creative, educational and enjoyable learning experiences.

Costs depend on activity, group size and materials required.

To book a GemArts artist, or discuss a project please contact Alexandra Marsden Gordon on:

0191 440 4125
or alexandra@gemarts.org

For Artists

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.

GemArts also share information and opportunities online through the website, Facebook and Twitter.

GemArts is committed to offering opportunities for everyone to engage with culturally diverse arts. If you can support this work, please consider making a donation at:

www.gemarts.org



Photo: Anna Miller

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

SUPPORT US

GemArts believe the arts enrich the lives of individuals and communities through celebrating our shared cultural diversity – Raising aspirations, building stronger communities and breaking down barriers.

Our work aims to increase equality of opportunity for everyone to engage with culturally diverse arts - as artists, producers, participants and audiences. As a charity we

rely on raising funds from donations and sponsorship, so thousands more people from all backgrounds can take part every year.

Help us make a difference and support our work creating life enhancing projects, presenting exceptional events and bringing valuable support and opportunities to disadvantaged communities.



Photo: Anna Miller

Individual Giving

Donations of all sizes make a difference;

- £5 buys art materials enabling a young person to learn new creative skills and share this with friends and family.
- £20 helps subsidise our annual Diwali event, making it accessible, enabling communities to come together, share and celebrate.
- £50 provides space so a community group can get creative, build friendships and strengthen support networks.
- £80 pays for dance classes, getting older people active, helping tackle isolation, and improving health and wellbeing.
- £250 enables young people living in challenging circumstances to take part in a music project that builds their confidence, helping them achieve new skills, leading to a better future.

Donate online at www.gemarts.org/support-us

Business Giving

GemArts work with businesses of all sizes, offering exciting sponsorship opportunities around our performance and participatory programmes. We can help local businesses bring customers fun holiday activities, showcase spaces and venues, raise awareness of local issues, offer staff, client and stakeholder hospitality opportunities and much more.

To discuss how you or your business can support our charitable work contact Vikas Kumar on 0191 440 4125 or vikas@gemarts.org.



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

Saturday 8th February

7:30pm

RAFIKI JAZZ

Middlesbrough Town Hall,
Albert Rd, TS1 2QJ

Free, but pre-booking essential
www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk

Tuesday 18th February

11:30am – 3:30pm

(relaxed session 10am–11am*)

MINI MELA

Caedmon Hall,
Gateshead Central Library, NE8 4LN

FREE Event, Just drop in!

*Booking required for relaxed session

www.gemarts.org

or call 0191 440 4124

Saturday 29th February

6:45pm Talk / 7:30pm Performance

INDIAN SPRING COLOURS APOORVA GOKHALE

Durham University,
Dept of Music, Palace Green

£10 / Students £4 / Under 18's £1

www.musicdurham.org/musicon

Sunday 1st March

11:00am

INDIAN SPRING COLOURS CHIRANJEEB

CHAKRABORTY WITH
'SWAR-TAAL SAMVAD'

Durham University,
Dept of Music, Palace Green

£5 / Students £2 / Under 18's FREE

www.musicdurham.org/musicon

Monday 2nd March

6:45pm Talk / 7:30pm Performance

INDIAN SPRING COLOURS ROOPA PANESAR AND BHUPINDER CHAGGAR

St Chad's College Chapel,
18 North Bailey, Durham

£10 / Students £4 / Under 18's £1

www.musicdurham.org/musicon

Monday 2nd March

8:00pm

HASHMAT SULTANA

Sage Gateshead,
Sage 2, NE8 2JR

£13.60 to £19.10*

Family ticket available

0191 443 4661

www.sagegateshead.com

Thursday 5th March

7:30pm

ARYA

Durham Cathedral

£18 full price / £15 conc*

<https://www.operanorth.co.uk/whats-on/arya-concert/>

Saturday 14th March

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SIMON THACKER'S SVARA-KANTI

Middlesbrough Town Hall,
Albert Rd, TS1 2QJ

Free, but pre-booking essential

www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk

Saturday 21st March

7:00pm

GATESHEAD JAZZ 2020 SHRI FEAT:

BUGGE WESSELTTOFT,
BEN CASTLE & ASAF SIRKIS

Sage Gateshead, Sage 2, NE8 2JR

£5 - £17.20*

0191 443 4661

www.sagegateshead.com

Sunday 22nd March

4:00pm

GATESHEAD JAZZ 2020 NIKKI YEOH AND ZOE RAHMAN

Sage Gateshead, Sage 2, NE8 2JR

£5 - £17.20*

0191 443 4661

www.sagegateshead.com

Saturday 25th April

7:00pm – 11:00pm

VAISAKHI

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

£5pp / £15 Group (up to 4 people)

www.gemarts.org

or call 0191 440 4124

Friday 15th May

7:30pm

HARJINDERPAL SINGH MATHARU

Middlesbrough Town Hall,
Albert Rd, TS1 2QJ

Free, but pre-booking essential

www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk

* booking fee may apply – see website for details

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

Address: GemArts, Central Library, Prince Consort Road, Gateshead NE8 4LN

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



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Follow us on Twitter **@GemArtsUK**

