



**Jodhpur RIFF Scheduled Program**  
**26th to 30th October 2023**  
**(Open format listing)**

**26th OCTOBER**

**BAL MELA - SCHOOL CHILDREN'S FOLK MORNING**

8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

*Veer Durga Das Memorial Park*

*Entry Free (note: this event is only for schools)*

**Kathputli** - String puppetry using wooden dolls or marionettes, the *kathputli* is performed on a miniature stage with highly dramatic narration and music, retelling stories that reflect pertinent social concerns or the valour of erstwhile kings. It was the most popular form of children's entertainment and even though there are few accomplished practitioners left today, it continues to hold an iconic status in Rajasthan's performing arts culture.

**Ghoomer** - Initially introduced by the Bhil tribe of Rajasthan and then gradually adopted by other communities, *ghoomer* is a dance where women in their traditional ghagra (long swirling skirt) and choli (blouse) pirouette while moving in and out of a wide circle, to the tune of traditional songs and the rhythm of hands clapping. The word '*ghoomna*' describes the twirling movement of the dancers and is the basis of the word '*ghoomer*'.

**Kachchi Ghodi** - A novel dance form performed on colourful dummy-horses.

Men in elaborate and embellished costumes dance rhythmically to beating drums, under a large umbrella *chhatarkotla*- while a singer narrates the exploits of the Bhavaria bandits of Shekhawati.

**Young Langa musicians** – For our young audiences we present young sarangiya Langa musicians, who sing and play the exquisite Sindhi sarangi. Trained by their ustad, the budding young masters of the community will share their music and hopefully, inspire school children as they continue to uphold the legacy of their forefathers.

**Rajasthani Circus** - India's earliest circuses featured numerous traditional performing art forms from Rajasthan - acrobats, magicians, musicians, dancers and a variety of *Bhawai* artists performing daring feats. While it is rare to see such acts today, the **Kawa circus** and Jodhpur RIFF assemble some of the best artists still performing these forms, to re-create a traditional circus for our young audiences.

**Bhapang** – an unusual, single-stringed 'talking drum' is a classic folk instrument, particular to the Mewat region of Rajasthan. Coupled with equal parts music and hilarity, a group of talented *bhapang* artists will perform in unison for our young audiences.

**Teraah Taali** - Created and traditionally performed by the Kamad community, the performers in *teraah taali* move to the reverberating sounds of thirteen (*teraah*) cymbals or manjira that are fastened to their waist, wrists, elbows, and hands. This dance form is an electric mix of movement and sound and gives the unique impression that the dance itself is producing.

music instead of following music. Punctuated with displays of balancing multiple pots piled on a dancer's head, holding a sword between one's teeth or lit oil lamps on one's palms, the *teraah taali* form is a unique demonstration of skill, agility and grace.



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## OPENING NIGHT - CITY CONCERT

7:30 PM to 10:00 PM

Jaswant Thada Parking (outside Mehrangarh Fort)

Entry Free and open to all

Heralding the beginning of Jodhpur RIFF, our opening night concert features a variety of riveting performances reflecting the diversity of traditional Rajasthani music, excerpts from performances by national and international artists, ending in an exhilarating finale with drummers and dancers. The concert opens with the unique vocal style of our **Kalbeliya** singers **Sugna devi, Mohini devi and Asha Sapera** who are breaking gender and social norms by reclaiming their space in folk music. They introduce us to the popular folk and inspiring dance-oriented songs of the *kalbeliya*, followed by a cool double flute rendition by **Kuula Hetke** from Estonia. Then upbeat tunes by **Ars Nova Napoli** and **Miroca Paris** lead us into some sensational and dramatic percussion ensembles with emerging **khartal** and **dholak masters** from the Langa and Manganiyar communities. After the haunting strains of **Jasser Haj**'s violin and the mellifluous vocals of **Suonno d'Ajere**, the finale brings on the legendary **Kawa Brass Band**, celebrating Rajasthan's vibrancy and colour with trumpet, trombone, euphonium, clarinet and other instruments. Later, the internationally acclaimed **Dhol Drummers of Rajasthan** take the stage, followed by popular male dancer **Sunil**. The night concludes with the surreal **Agni Bhawai**, a traditional fire eating and dance performance from the villages of northern Rajasthan, and the very special **Dhol Tasha** from Maharashtra. Be ready for a splendorous start to Jodhpur RIFF 2023!

## 27th to 29th OCTOBER

### FORT FESTIVITIES

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Venues throughout the Mehrangarh Museum

Museum Entry Ticket/ Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Discover the myriad hues of the traditional dance forms of Rajasthan, reflecting its distinctive root traditions, some popular and some rare, including: **Chang Nritya**— a charming, captivating dance, with men swaying and grooving while playing a round frame-drum called *chang*; **Teraah Taali** - known for agility and grace, where women move to and produce the reverberating sounds of *teraah* i.e. thirteen little cymbals or *manjira* that are fastened to their waist, wrists, elbows, and hands, simultaneously showcasing their skills of movement, balance and concentration; **Mashak** - the strains of Rajasthan's own bagpipe, unique to certain regions, particularly Mewat.

As you wander through the Mehrangarh Museum in the fort, taste these wonderful flavours of Rajasthan rarely seen, with the **Chang, Derun, Teraah Taali, Mashak and Gair**.



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**27th OCTOBER**

**J RIFF DAWNS WITH THE MEGHWAL AND THE MANGANIYAR**

*5:30 AM to 7:30 AM*

*Jaswant Thada (outside Mehrangarh Fort)*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ RIFF dawns pass Rs. 200/-*

Every year, the Meghwals of Marwar herald in the dawn at Jodhpur RIFF. Under the first light of the rising sun on a cool, serene morning, the melodic drone of the *tandura*, the beat of the *jhanjh/ manjira* (small-paired cymbals) and the rhythm of the *dholak* create the mood for the meditative strains of the *bhajan* (literally, ‘to revere, also to share’) of the Meghwal community. Traditionally weavers, Meghwals are not only known for their contribution to embroidery and the textile industry, but also for the rich folklore they nurture. In keeping with the tradition, this year too, ***Bhallu Ram ji and Mala Ram ji Meghwal*** begin our first dawn concert with their masterful vocals. Right afterwards, with different but equally soulful vocals, ***Jalal and Barkat Manganiyar*** take the stage. Like their bond as brothers, the synergy in their musicianship is equally endearing as they sing their spiritual songs, traditionally sung for their patrons.

**INDIE ROOTS I**

*5.30 PM to 6:45 PM*

*Chokelao Bagh*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*

Last year, Jodhpur RIFF presented its first Indie Roots afternoon, an occasion for young, city-based, independent singers and songwriters connected to traditional roots. This is a stage to share their work with Jodhpur RIFF audiences and artists alike. This year, we bring in our first dance evening featuring two young dancers from differing traditions. Drawing inspiration from Tamil poet-saint Andal’s devotional poem exploring Narasimha: the fierce Hindu deity associated with the liminal and the in-between, ***Raina Peterson’s ‘Narasimha – ManLion’*** combines blood and honey, flowers and entrails. Peterson draws on their training in classical Indian dance (*mohiniyattam*) to create a work which oscillates between the violence of Narasimha’s imagery and the sensuality of Andal’s poetry. An award-winning dancer-choreographer of Fiji-Indian-English heritage, born and raised on the lands of the Gunaikurnai people, Raina creates moving experimental dance works that respect and challenge traditional and contemporary dance. With a substantial body of new work Raina’s works are critically acclaimed for their subversive and visceral approach to exploring the diasporic experience, cultural identity, gender diversity and sexuality. Raina shares the stage with ***Marco Cher-Gibard***, award-winning musician known for his theatrical collaborations and solo works exploring live sampling, electronics, home-based software, and a not-so-usual guitar. Then the Mumbai-based exemplary *Kathak* dancer ***Tarini Tripathi*** and young masters of the Langa tradition - ***SAZ*** - present their first and hitherto **untitled collaboration** - bringing two traditions together in a unique *jugalbandi*. Almost always performed to Hindustani/ classical instruments such as the *tabla*, here, Tarini performs her freshly choreographed pieces completely tuned to select, traditional percussion and songs of the Langa community, rendered by ***Sadiq Khan’s*** masterful *dholak*, ***Asin Khan’s*** powerful vocals and his *Sindhi Sarangi* (recipient of the Aga Khan Music Award 2020-22; Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2022),



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and **Zakir Khan's** amazing *khartal*. **SAZ**, soon to release their first album, are a young trio committed to the continuity of their tradition, while writing new songs and developing new work in collaboration with artists from across the world. As a former athlete and fitness professional, **Tarini** sees a synergy between movement and energy. For her, dance is a dynamic extension of one's being, where we express what we are afraid to do in routine life. Recently bestowed with the 'Nritya Nipun' from Nalanda Dance Research Centre, Tarini is recipient of the Best Dancer Award at PECDA 2022. She is also the Co-Director, Principal Dancer, and faculty at Amara Nritya Kala Hansa. Tarini has performed extensively in India and the UK, under the guidance of her mother, acclaimed dancer, and choreographer Gauri Sharma Tripathi, and her grandmother, the incredible Smt. Padma Sharma.

*This untitled collaboration is a Jodhpur RIFF commission.*

## MOODY RIFFS

7:30 PM onwards

Zenana Courtyard

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

### ***Manganiyar of Marwar – Kamaicha Charm***

The Manganiyar of Marwar is an annual special performance by the artists of the community, dedicated to the late Sakhar Khan Manganiyar, doyen of their musical traditions, custodian of their traditions and teacher par-excellence. This year, we focus on the particularity of their string instrument, the *Kamaicha*, unique to their community, and performed by some of their very best artists, in an expression of the desert like none other. The performers include both senior and young masters of the tradition, led by **Sakhar ji's** sons **Ghevar Khan** and brother **Darre Khan** from Hamira, accompanied **Roshan Khan, Kode Khan** and many others – all superb musicians, supported by the master of the Rajasthani dholak **Feroze** (also Sakhar ji's son).

### ***Suonno D'Ajere***

This Neapolitan musical trio of Irene **Scarpato**, **Marcello Smigliante Gentile** and **Gian Marco Libeccio** blend bold vocals with classical guitar and the mandolin. The result is a dynamic, yet serene sound, fresh and ancient at the same time. Suonno D'ajere borrows its name from Pino Daniele's 1977 song title that translates to *The Dream of Yesterday*. True to the name, their music, drawing freely from jazz and the blues, evokes great nostalgia of the traditional, classical Neapolitan song traditions. Watching them onstage feels quite like travelling back in time. Their performance combines the dynamic energy of the live stage with the timeless beauty of classical music, never failing to leave the audience wishing for more.

*India Premiere*

### ***Jasser Haj Youssef***

We are excited to present a truly wonderful, world musician, who brings a stupendous solo set on his chosen violins to the Jodhpur RIFF stage. Young composer, musicologist, teacher, conductor, and master of the baroque viola d'amore, violinist **Jasser Haj Youssef** is one of the world's leading young musicians and virtuoso performers. Be it directing the Chamber Orchestra of Paris, or accompanying the fantastic Youssou N'Dour, Jasser's compositions are regularly performed by the leading orchestras of the Mediterranean to



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Europe - from Tunisia to Paris. A consummate fusionist as well, Jasser is equally at home in Jazz, as he is in *maqam* or in western classical music. Co-author of SIRA... Le Jazz et l'Orient, Jasser is also one of the master musicians of the Aga Khan Music Program.

*India Premiere (solo)*

### ***Barnali Chattopadhyay***

Acclaimed Hindustani vocalist, Barnali Chattopadhyay brings among other things, a rare treat to Jodhpur RIFF - the *Banarasi Mand*. Based on the *mand* of Rajasthan or *Raag Mand*, the *Banarasi Mand* is best exemplified by moods of *birha* (sorrow) and *shringar* (beauty/ love) *ras*. A well-known name in the *thumri* tradition, Barnali ji is a specialist of this style of *mand*, her highly expressive voice invoking a sense of great love and reverence for the themes of her music. Barnali's music is deeply rooted to the historic river city of Banaras, and ties together the aspects of devotion, awe and beauty often attributed to the city. Having received much of her guidance from the legendary Padma Vibhushan Girija Devi, her learning was also shaped and developed by the musicologist Dr. Kumar Prasad Mukhopadhyay (Agra Gharana), Vidushi Purnima Chaudhari and the *thumri* queen Shobha Gurtu. She is a veteran vocalist at All India Radio and Dordarshan and is soon to be heard as the lead vocalist in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Netflix series Heeramandi.

## **DESERT LOUNGE**

*Midnight onwards*

*Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park (adjacent to lower car park of Mehrangarh Fort)*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*

### ***Ek raat khaas lok kalakaaron ke saath...***

Jodhpur RIFF presents a special Desert Lounge in the Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park. An **all-acoustic** experience with the senior and young masters of songs and the amazing instrumentalists of the Sindhi Sarangi - musicians of the Langa tradition lead by **Sardar Khan** and **Asin Langa**; fabulous voices of the Manganiyar tradition featuring **Dayam Khan Manganiyar**; women folk singers **Ganga and Sundar Devi** and the remarkable **Sumitra Devi** among others. This experience is as rustic as you can get, sans electricity, surrounded by nature, against the backdrop of the legendary Mehrangarh fort.

*As the music is acoustic (non-amplified) and the space is intimate, seating is on a first-come-first-serve basis. The slightest noise distracts fellow audience members and makes it hard to listen to the performers. We would greatly appreciate it if the audience refrained from chatting and speaking during the performance or while waiting to be seated.*

*Please note: The meeting point for the Desert Lounge for all audiences is in the Mehrangarh Fort lower car park at 11.45 pm or at the entrance to the Rao Jodha Park at 11.50 pm. The walk to and from the performance space is approximately 10 minutes from the lower car park: first on the road to the Rao Jodha Park entrance (5 minutes) and then in the park itself (5-8 minutes) – so please wear decent shoes for walking! Please carry something warm (it gets chilly); hot drinks & light snacks will be available for purchase.*



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**28th OCTOBER**

**J RIFF DAWNS WITH SOUNDS OF THE WIND**

*5:30 AM to 7:30 AM*

*Jaswant Thada*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ RIFF dawns pass Rs. 200/-*

**Idu Khan Langa**, young maestro of the *alghoza*, the *Surnaiya* Langa's archetypal wind instrument, begins our second dawn concert. His soulful and melodious tunes are both uplifting and insightful, reminiscent of a profoundness that only large, open spaces like the desert can give us. **Kuula Hetke** (*literally 'listen to the moment'*) then takes the stage to transport us to another space altogether. This improvisatory duo breathes magic into their flutes, taking us within ourselves, a different meaning for each listener. Young flautists **Kärt Pihlap and Katariina Tirmaste** have a very unique storytelling artistry that can't be tied down to the realm of words. Greatly influenced by folk music of their mother country Estonia, and their own personal histories, their music is crafted out of stories of love, loss and returning to oneself after it all - not unlike Rajasthan's own epic ballads. The melodies are simply ethereal and flow seamlessly. It's impossible to hear them play without gentle waves of a pleasant past washing over you.

**RIFF DANCE BOOT CAMP I**

*9.00 AM to 10.30 AM*

*Chokelao Bagh*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*

*Kathak like never before with **Tarini Tripathi***

A former athlete, a functional trainer and an award-winning, young, third generation classical dancer, **Tarini Tripathi** grew up surrounded by Kathak. She brings her unique legacy to Jodhpur RIFF, an invigorating session of dance, introducing us to this beautiful form of movement. Kathak derives much of its beauty from subtle expressions, graceful hand movements and intricate foot movement enhanced by the resounding bells of the *ghungroo* worn around the dancer's ankles.

Tarini has trained and performed alongside her mother Gauri Sharma Tripathi and grandmother Padma Sharma, both eminent names in Kathak. She has successfully incorporated dancing into her career in fitness training too, advocating the artform as a way of core building and balance training. This session gives us a taste of Tarini's simple philosophy, that dance is a way of life in every sense.

*Jodhpur RIFF presents rustic dance 'bootcamps', facilitated by noted practitioners and trainers. Short, intense, and rigorous, these camps will give participants an experiential insight into the movements and practice of traditional dance forms.*

*Please Note:*

*This is the one-and-only, stand-alone session.*

*Please wear/ bring appropriate and comfortable clothing that allows free movement such as T-shirts, long/ loose shirts or blouses, tights, loose track or harem pants or long skirts.*

*Do carry your own rehydration and drying material. Be prepared to sweat! It is a boot camp!!*



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## INTERACTIVE SESSION

11 AM to 1:00 PM

Chokelao Bagh

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

The key music traditions of Mewat - **Bhapang, Mashak, Jogiya Sarangi, Khari dance** are brought to Jodhpur RIFF this year, in collaboration with young *bhapang* maestro **Yusuf Khan**. Born into a Muslim Jogiya family in the village of Mungaska, Alwar, Yusuf comes from a lineage of world-renowned folk musicians. His grandfather and father were esteemed *bhapang* players, and this traditional instrument holds a significant place in their family's musical heritage. Despite being an engineer by profession, Yusuf's deep passion for his traditional Mewati folk music mirrors that of his father Umar Farooq Mewati's. And like his grandfather in 1993 and his father in 2007, Yusuf's exceptional talent and unwavering dedication to this art form and the music of Mewat have brought him national recognition through a recent state award. Yusuf's aspiration is to carry forward the legacy of his family, focusing on promoting and preserving the rich heritage of Mewati folk music, and Jodhpur RIFF supports this effort. We encourage our audiences to get to know these unique traditions of Mewati music through dialogue with the artists themselves.

*Jodhpur RIFF's interactive session series gives the audience a rare opportunity to meet fascinating artists from various root traditions. The sessions encourage audience members to engage and discuss challenges, forms and traditional practice through performances, lecture-demonstrations and facilitated conversations. As more and more of Rajasthan and India's rich traditional cultural heritage disappears, Jodhpur RIFF puts the spotlight on some of its remarkable music forms and traditions nearing extinction and opens dialogue to surface and explore how these challenges could be addressed.*

## MOONRISE

5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Jaswant Thada

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ Moonrise Pass Rs. 500/-

Highly accomplished, national award-winning, All India Radio's leading classical flautist **Avadhoot Phadke** welcomes the Sharad Poornima moon with a mellifluous flute recital. The *bansuri*, the Indian bamboo flute, demands great precision and breath control from the artist for a smoothly flowing melodious expression. But Avadhoot makes it all look so easy and natural. He plays like the flute is an extension of himself. Born into a musical family, he started training with his mother Dr. Rasika Phadke from a very young age and then later, under eminent teachers Shri. Raghvendra Baliga, Pt. Shankar Abhyankar and Pt. Rupak Kulkarni. The free spirited Avadhoot is open to all kinds of musical traditions. In addition to his classical work, he has also featured in Hindi film songs alongside popular composers and singers such as Sachin Jigar, Ankit Tiwari and Sukhwinder Singh.

His performance at Jodhpur RIFF will feature another highly accomplished musician **Mrugendra Mohadkar** on flute, accompanied by the ace young percussionists **Rupak Dhamankar** on *tabla* and **Pratap Avadh** on *pakhawaj*.



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## STRINGS & BEATS

7:45 PM onwards

Old Zenana Courtyard

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

### ***Bulund Aavaazein, Kalbeliyon ki***

**Mohini Devi, Sugna Devi and Asha Sapera** open the evening performances with a selection of traditional *Jogi* (aka *Jogi Kalbeliya*) songs. Each an enthralling vocalist in her own right, they are the few female singers left who carry on what used to be a robust musical tradition. The women of this originally nomadic *Jogi* community regularly sang along with serpents that the community is famous for handling. When the practice of catching and raising snakes were outlawed under wildlife preservation laws the women gradually created a movement and began dancing to represent the snakes that were an integral part of their culture. Over time the Kalbeliya dance form has overshadowed the musical traditions of the *Jogis*, with only a few women left who remember and perform these disappearing songs. What is also remarkable is that not many women vocalists can match the high pitch of the *been* (*pungi*), the reed-like instrument which is a hallmark of the *Jogi Kalbeliya*, the way Mohini ji and Sugna ji can. Their astoundingly unique voices and passionate presence make for a wonderful and captivating performance.

### ***Jeff Lang and Greg Sheehan***

With 25 music albums and multiple ARIA awards under his belt, **Jeff Lang** is Australia's most accomplished slide guitarist, songwriter, singer, composer and music producer in the Blues and Roots genre. Beginning his musical journey at the age of 12, and still as gutsy and prolific, Jeff is ranked among the leading guitar players in the world. Returning to the Jodhpur RIFF\* stage after 10 years, Jeff is accompanied by long-time friend and collaborator **Greg Sheehan**.

Having started his journey as a 4-year-old mesmerised by the first drummer he saw perform live, **Greg Sheehan** hasn't stopped drumming for the past 60 years! His practice has stayed diverse throughout the decades, including collaborations with artists like Blackfeather, Goanna, Shane Howard, The Black Arm Band and many more. Today, Greg is equally loved as a performer, teacher, visionary, and a highly respected music producer\*.

*\*Jeff has had a long-standing, remarkable collaboration with Asin Khan Langa and a band called Maru Tarang. Greg produced the informal closing ceremony at the Commonwealth games in 2018, that featured the Dhol Drummers of Rajasthan.*

### ***Interlude: Dholak***

Jodhpur RIFF presents a performance featuring some of the best young folk *dholak* players from Rajasthan. Led by **Feroze Khan Manganiyar**, Rajasthan's foremost *dholak* instrumentalist, this display is an outcome of a series of masterclasses for young musicians, supported by the festival.

### ***Smita Bellur***

Trained as a Hindustani vocalist, **Smita Bellur** was among the first to be accepted as a student into a long lineage of *qawaals* (traditional male Sufi singers), the Warsi Brothers. She has practised Sufi music, imbibing from the best of Islamic mysticism. Her music deeply reflects her continuous and passionate engagement with the mystic, spiritual sects of Indian musical practice. She is well versed in the Sufi, Nirguni, Bhakti, Veerashaiva and Haridasa poetry traditions, weaving new depths into their ancient scripts



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with her melodious voice. Many of these poems combine worship and devotion with a deep romance and longing for an unmediated union with the divine. Today, many centuries after their original compositions, Smita's ability to capture these complex emotions in her renditions is a true testament to her talent and commitment to her art. This night dedicated to the Sufi, promises to be one of the most memorable and magical nights at the festival. Her set features India's leading classical Sarangi artist **Dilshad Khan** and will be supported by a range of folk musicians including **Sadiq Khan** on Dholak and **Zakir Khan** on harmonium.

### ***Ars Nova Napoli***

Jodhpur RIFF brings the music of the Napolitan streets to its stages, with the most accomplished young artists of the genre. Performing on the streets of Naples for the longest time before taking to the studios, **Ars Nova Napoli** has stayed true to their Campanian roots for over 14 years now. Their artistic practice is inseparable from the culture of the historic city of Naples, famous for street art and music. Born from a strong belief that artistic expression needs to be free and accessible to the common man, they have performed in countless marketplaces, alleyways, weddings and birthday parties across Italy, as well as music festivals around the world. Truly, no stage is small enough to keep them away. **Marcello Squillante, Bruno Belardi, Michelangelo Nusco, Antonino Anastasia, Vincenzo Racioppi and Gianluca Fusco** perform a wide variety of music ranging from Sicilian serenades, Neapolitan Classics, Calabrian *tarantellas*, extending all the way to the Greek *rebetiko* and Balkan music. Their constantly evolving music is equal parts festive and joyful, and a testament to the fact that art truly has and will always belong among the people.

*India Premiere*

### **CLUB MEHRAN**

*11:45 PM onwards*

*Salimkot*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*

This year's Club Mehran presents three fantastic back-to-back performances that are not to be missed:

### ***Tropical Sounds by Nkumba System***

A vibrant fusion of Afrobeat and Dancehall, **Nkumba System** brings to Club Mehran the best parts of African and Latin American music. We promise you some tropical, beachy tunes that may surprise, but in no time leave you swaying and dancing along with the music. Their music maps several powerful themes like social justice, sustainability, and freedom, but the undeniable charisma and infectious joy they bring to the stage is beyond captivating. Nkumba features a charming mix of Colombian and French artists **Alejandra Charry, Jhon Socha, Nicolas Hobbe, Grégoire Sanchez and Guillo Cros**.

*India Premiere*

### ***The Dholworks***

Jodhpur RIFF brings to Club Mehran a new collaboration with percussionist and producer **Viveick Rajagopalan**, bringing together the historical battle drums of Maharashtra with the Rajasthani *dhol*, centerstage. While the *dhol tasha* from Maharashtra boasts a rather violent male grandeur that few other drum combinations can claim, in recent years these drums have been instrumental in breaking gender stereotypes, with women strapping the heavy drums over their traditional sarees and performing on streets



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during festivals. The Rajasthani dhol, meanwhile, has had a gentler history and has always been ceremonial. This year, the two instruments come together like never before. Accompanied by **Pranav Dixit** on the *tasha*, **Gaurang Dalvi** on the *jhanj*, it is **Swarangi Savdekar** and **Yaminee Khamkar** on the Puneri Dhols along with the Dhol Drummers of Rajasthan **Chanan Khan**, **Swaroop Khan** and **Rasool Khan**, that will whip up a *Dhol Tasha* frenzy. The performance also features **Vivieck's** own *Konnakol* with support from some fantastic young maestros on the *khartal* and *dholak*.

*India Premiere*

### **ChontaDJ**

Jodhpur RIFF proudly presents South America's silkiest sounds by **ChontaDJ** aka **Alejandra Gomez**, a regular at Glastonbury and at Fuji Rock playing the best modern and traditional music grooves from Latin America, often surprising but always uplifting, daft and glorious all at once.

A unique and highly respected artist and producer on the Colombian music scene, Alejandra is the founder and director of Biche, an alternative music production house based in Bogotá and Cali, Colombia, that focuses in the creative and executive development of atypical and avant garde Latin sounds. Cofounder of the collective Todopoderosa for gender diversity in the Latin independent music scene, she is a DIY publicist, educational agitator, vinyl selector and underground promoter who deeply believes in collaborative and horizontal work.

*India Premiere*



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**29th OCTOBER**

**J RIFF DAWNS WITH SONGS FROM THE SOUTH**

*5:30 AM to 7:30 AM*

*Jaswant Thada*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ RIFF dawns pass Rs. 200/-*

***Mahesh Vinayakram's Carnatic vocals***

Hailing from a glorious musical lineage, Mahesh Vinayakram is an indispensable member of Parampara, a Jodhpur RIFF project that was instrumental in putting some of India's most ancient and traditional music on the global radar. As the son of Vikku Vinayakram, better known as the God of Ghatam, it is no small feat that Mahesh has built a name for himself worthy of special mention. The first male singer to be ever cast in a Cirque du Soleil performance and a UNESCO Millennium award-winner, Mahesh has worked alongside many musical legends, including Ustad Zakir Hussain, Steve Smith, Talvin Singh and A R Rahman. With more than 125 singles to his credit, Mahesh awakens any stage he performs in, with vocal chops like none other.

Set against the backdrop of yet another beautiful sunrise in Jodhpur's Jaswant Thada, this dawn performance promises to be an unmissable live experience!

**DANCE BOOT CAMP II**

*9.00 AM to 10.30 AM*

*Chokelao Bagh*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*

***Ghoomer***

Ghoomer is derived from the Hindi word 'ghoom' which literally means 'to twirl'. A popular dance form, as the name signifies, the chief movement of this form is pirouetting. The footwork and hand movements are always in synchronisation with this spinning motion. Ghoomer is conventionally performed by women in groups, who wear colourful, mirror-embedded *ghaghra* (flowing skirts) and cover their faces with a matching-coloured veil. The coordinated movement accompanied by the haunting music of Rajasthan's folk musical instruments, this dance form is vivid and surreal. The fantastic *Asha Sapera*, *kalbeliya* dancer conducts the session.

*Jodhpur RIFF presents rustic dance 'bootcamps', facilitated by noted practitioners and trainers. Short, intense, and rigorous, these camps will give participants an experiential insight into the movements and practice of traditional dance forms.*

*Please Note:*

*This is the one-and-only, stand-alone session.*

*Please wear/ bring appropriate and comfortable clothing that allows free movement such as T-shirts, long/ loose shirts or blouses, tights, loose track or harem pants or long skirts.*

*Do carry your own rehydration and drying material. Be prepared to sweat! It is a boot camp!!*



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## INDIE ROOTS II

4.30 PM to 5.45 PM

Chokelao Bagh

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

***Khooni Vaisakhi*** by **Harpreet** followed by a discussion with publisher and **Navdeep Suri**  
**Harpreet's** haunting rendition of Khooni Vaisakhi brings alive those feelings, oft forgotten, that shaped the history of India as a nation. Acclaimed for his musical renditions of humanist and politically charged poetry, Harpreet's art is an ethereal blend of the best of both worlds. He also performs original compositions in several regional Indian languages including Punjabi, Urdu, Haryanvi and Rajastani. The performance will be followed by a discussion with Harpreet and Navdeep Suri, respected Indian diplomat, translator of the original Khooni Vaisakhi from Punjabi to English and the poet Nanak Singh's own grandson.

*Khooni Vaisakhi was originally written in 1919 by poet Nanak Singh based on one of the darkest chapters of Indian history and independence struggle. The poet, then 22, was at the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, where the British opened fire on the hundreds of innocent people gathered to celebrate the spring festival Vaisakhi. Nanak Singh barely escaped with his life, carted away unconscious alongside corpses, and lived to tell the tale. Today, more than a 100 years later, to witness this powerful poem brought back to life in Harpreet's voice would be an experience that can't be easily forgotten.*

## LIVING LEGENDS

6.00 PM to 7:00 PM

Dhanna Bhiyan Chhatri (TBC)

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

**'Kohinoor' Bundu Khan Langa**, a pioneer of the *khartal* in the Langa community, is a *khartal* player par excellence. He began his musical journey at the age of 8 under the tutelage of Ustad Sadik Khan Manganiyar. With years of dedication and practice, his skill with the *khartal* reached exceptional heights. He was nicknamed 'Kohinoor' by none other than the late Queen Elizabeth II of England, a testament to the remarkable impact his performance has had on the global audience. After many years and numerous performances in India and overseas, over time, he slowly started to withdraw from the stage and semi-retired from public appearances. But Bundu Khan Langa's talent and passion for this traditional instrument made him a much-loved teacher with many, many students. Jodhpur RIFF acknowledges his role and life in the music annals of Rajasthan. As testament to his capability, 'Kohinoor' Bundu Khan shares the stage with his son **Zakir** and colleague **Bhanwaroo**, to wow us with his mastery and his ability to captivate audiences with his rhythmic prowess.



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**Bade Ghazi Khan Manganiyar** is a highly acclaimed vocalist hailing from the village of Harwa in Barmer district. He is known for his mesmerising renditions of traditional songs that have been passed down through generations within the Manganiyar community. His soulful voice and mastery of various traditional compositions in *Sorath & Khamaiti*, have earned him immense respect and recognition. In recognition of his immense contribution to Rajasthani folk music, Bade Ghazi Khan Manganiyar was honoured with the prestigious Marwar Ratna Award. This award is a testament to his dedication and talent, as well as his efforts in preserving and promoting the cultural legacy of the Manganiyar community. Not surprisingly, he is one of the creators of the modern film song, *Nimbooda Nimbooda*, inspired from the original traditional folk composition.

Both Bade Ghazi Khan Manganiyar and ‘Kohinoor’ Bundu Langa continue to inspire younger artists and captivate audiences with their enchanting performances, keeping the rich traditions of Rajasthani folk music alive.

## INSIGHTS

7:30 PM onwards

Old Zenana Courtyard

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

## Parampara

Led by the legendary percussionist Vidwan **T. H Vinayakram**, fondly known as **Vikku ji**, or otherwise, the **God of Ghatam**, **Parampara** is a rare project that is a nation’s cultural treasure as much as it is a family’s legacy. It is a Carnatic music set that is both highly meditative and yet trance-like. *Ghatam*, an earthen pot that is one of the most ancient percussion instruments of India, takes centre stage, accompanied by steadily rising rapid rhythmic beats on *konnakol*, the *kanjira* and the *mridangam*.

First presented in part on the Jodhpur RIFF stage in 2019, this year Vikku ji performs with his elder son **Selvaganesh** (*kanjira*), his younger son **Mahesh Vinayakram** (vocals and *konnakol*), grandsons **Swaminathan** (*kanjira*) and **Guruprasad** (vocals), and granddaughter **Guru Priya** (vocals).

Vikku ji, who put the *ghatam* on the global map, has been performing for over 65 years now, and has been a recipient of the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan and a Grammy (America’s primary, peer-recognised music industry award). He has also worked alongside some of the most respected names in Indian Carnatic and international music, including the great Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar and MS Subbulakshmi, and is a key part of the legendary supergroup *Shakti* with Zakir Hussain and John McLaughlin. Like his father, Selvaganesh has played alongside numerous illustrious musicians and has also been a part of *Remembering Shakti*. But is better known globally for putting the seemingly little frame drum *kanjira*, on the national and international map.

## The Cool Desert Project

Original moods, bluesy riffs, desert vibes, off-beat dance grooves... a whole lot of cool attitude flows from this unique collaboration that brings together young masters from Mumbai’s jazz scene and Rajasthani folk traditions. **Rhys Sebastian’s** saxophone comes together with **SAZ** - with **Asin Khan’s** exquisite *sarangi*, **Sadiq’s** *dholak* and incredible *khartal*, along with supporting vocals of **Zakir**. The end result is an all-



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blending symphony that evokes a languid landscape and yet is on-point, setting a now-and-urgent, upbeat musical experience. This collaboration is completed with the young and vibrant **Vaibhav Wavikar** on drums, keyboardist **Rahul Wadhvani** and ace bassist **Ralph Menezes**.

*The Cool Desert Project is a Jodhpur RIFF commission.*

### ***Interlude: Khartal***

Jodhpur RIFF presents a performance featuring some of the best young folk *khartal* players from Rajasthan. Led by **Khete Khan Manganiyar**, Rajasthan's leading *khartal* instrumentalist, this display is an outcome of a series of masterclasses for young musicians, supported by the festival.

### ***Miroca Paris***

Miroca plays like he was born for the stage. Having toured with internationally acclaimed artists including the likes of the Barefoot Diva, Cesaria Evora and Madonna for over two decades, his magnetic stage presence has enraptured crowds all around the world. This singer, Island rhythm innovator and multi-instrumentalist, routinely shifts between the guitar, drums, cavaquinho, and several other traditional Cape Verdean instruments. Despite their varied natures, they all truly come to life in his hands. **Miroca's** original music takes much inspiration from the festive, upbeat tunes of island music and is very joyful to listen to.

*India Premiere*

**Alif**, the first letter of the Arabic Urdu script, signifying oneness, the mystical and the unseen. These are some of the interpretations the band brings forth in their poetry and sound. Based in Pune and founded by **Mohammed Muneem**, this is a band that brings lived experience to the stage. Alif's poetry and music is relevant and bold. When masterfully blended with Alif's distinctive genre-defying contemporary and ethnic sound, the experience is profound. Deeply influenced by the folk music of Kashmir, Alif has a truly authentic and original sound that both soothes and haunts the listener. Winner of numerous awards (IRRA award "Best Music Production" for Like a Sufi; Winner of the Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2018's "Best Music Video" for Lalnawath; Best Folk Song IIMA Award for his song Ride Home with Noor Mohammad), Alif is an experience that both stirs and stills the soul- and ultimately, sets you free.

## **RIFF RUSTLE**

*11:45 PM onwards*

*Old Zenana Courtyard*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*

### ***Greg Sheehan with Miroca Paris and Rhys Sebastian***

**RIFF Rustle** is our largest, impromptu collaboration performance that concludes the festival's night-time revelries. Every year, the festival appoints one musician as a 'rustler', who then rustles up other musicians from the festival to participate in this performance in pairs or quartets or all together.

Since we had so many great percussionists this year, we decided to have three collaborating rustlers for the first time ever - **Greg Sheehan**, acclaimed performer and producer with over 40 years of creating percussion projects and rhythms; **Miroca Paris**, ace percussionist and a composer who produces his music from the rhythm up, not from lyrics or a melody, but from the story he wants to tell; the young, highly



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skilled and accomplished saxophonist and producer (and our rustler in 2022) **Rhys Sebastian**. All three will work together to gather musicians at the festival to come and jam with each other while collaborating with the **Dhol Tasha, the Dhol Drummers, khartal and dholak masters and other** Rajasthani musicians. Who's to say what can happen when they all get together!



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**30th OCTOBER**

**J RIFF DAWNS WITH *Sharma Bandhu* and Harpreet**

*5:30 AM to 7:30 AM*

*Jaswant Thada*

*Full Festival pass/ RIFF dawns pass Rs. 200/-*

In his inimitable style, **Harpreet** brings in our last dawn of Jodhpur RIFF 2023 with his own interpretations and compositions of humanist poets such as Kabir and Bulleh Shah.

The iconic **Sharma Bandhu** then take the stage. For decades now, this legendary vocal quartet is a much-venerated name in the modern spiritual music genres of north India, known for crafting a seamless tapestry of semi-classical music combined with wonderful vocals and skillful storytelling. Generations have grown up with their songs 'Tera mera, mera tera' and 'Suraj ki garmi se jalte hue tan ko...'. The four brothers, **Pt. Gopal Sharma, Shukdev Sharma, Kaushlendra Sharma, and Raghvendra Sharma**, extremely popular for their bhajans and renditions of *Nirguni* poetry, bring Jodhpur RIFF 2023 to a close.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- The Jodhpur RIFF program is subject to change, without prior announcement.
- For more information on the program, email: [info@jodhpurriff.org](mailto:info@jodhpurriff.org)



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