



**Jodhpur RIFF Scheduled Program  
16th to 20th October 2024  
(Open format listing)**

**16th OCTOBER**

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

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Venue: 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** - *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 Rajasthani musicians** – For our young audiences we present young Rajasthani traditional musicians, who sing and play their instruments. Trained by their ustad, the budding young masters 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 Mewar 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.

**Behrupiya** - Blending around 52 different art forms—acting, singing, dancing, imitation, Behrupiya brings to life epic tales from mythology, such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The artists, known as Nakal or Nakalchi, are masters of disguise and impersonation.



Jodhpur RIFF takes place under the aegis of the Mehrangarh Museum Trust, Jodhpur

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**Khari Dance-** This enchanting dance form from Mewat revolves around a heartfelt dialogue between a couple. A frustrated wife, burdened by household chores, is tenderly reassured by her husband, vowing to ease her troubles. Central to this dance is the Khari, a wooden basket crafted from Tun wood, used by women to carry their belongings during travel.

## OPENING NIGHT - CITY CONCERT

7:30 PM to 10:00 PM

Jaswant Thada Parking (TBC)

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 vocals of mother-daughter duo **Ganga & Sundar** who are breaking gender and social norms by reclaiming their space in folk music. followed by a cool double act by **Puuluup** from Estonia. Then upbeat groovy sega tunes by **Emlyn** lead us into some sensational and dramatic percussion ensembles with emerging **khartal** and **dholak masters** of the Manganiyar community. After the dramatic collab between **Giridhar Udupa's ghatam** and the **Natig Shirinov Rhythm group**, the finale brings on the legendary **Kawa Brass Band**, celebrating Rajasthan's vibrancy and colour with trumpet, trombone, euphonium, clarinet and other instruments. Later, popular male dancer **Ashok Pahadiya with the algoza party of Shekawati** take the stage. The night concludes with the surreal **Agni Bhawai**, a traditional fire eating and dance performance from the villages of northern Rajasthan, and the internationally acclaimed **Dhol Drummers of Rajasthan**.

Be ready for a splendorous start to Jodhpur RIFF 2024!

## 17th to 19th OCTOBER

### FORT FESTIVITIES

09:45 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; the **Kalbelya**, a dance form that evolved when the traditional snake charmers of the state could no longer work with snakes; **Khari Dance**- revolving around a heartfelt dialogue between a couple, performed with a wooden basket called Khari ... And many other forms!



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17th OCTOBER

## J RIFF DAWNS WITH THE MEGHWALS AND THE MANGANIYAR

5:30 AM to 7:30 AM

Jaswant Thada (outside Mehrangarh Fort)

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ RIFF dawns pass Rs. 250/-

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 tandra, 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') performed by Kishanram ji, Omaram ji, and Bhomaram ji loof 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, *the 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, the Paliwal Brahmins.

## IN RESIDENCE I

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Chokelao Bagh

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

“Why I do what I do” was originally developed as a site-specific, immersive music and theatre experience in 2023, produced by two independent artists, artistic director **Supriya** and filmmaker **Suruchi Sharma**. The performers were five women from four different performing art traditions of Rajasthan - **Maewa Sopera, Mamta Sopera, Prem Dangi, Hanifa Manganiyar and Kamla Bhatt**. Unique in its conception, the performance was keen to find an audience that understood the various intricacies and layers behind its core idea, as it attempted to reveal newer ways of engaging with audiences and opening up to various possibilities of form and function.

In this session we hear from all the women, their songs, their stories and the story of this unusual project. And what the future might hold for them.

*Jodhpur RIFF's interactive session series In Residence 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 (some nearing extinction) and opens dialogue to surface and explore how these challenges could be addressed.*



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## **LIVING LEGEND: MEHERDEEN KHAN LANGA**

5:45 PM to 7:00 PM

Chokelao Bagh

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

*Performance by Meherdeen Langa and accompanists*

*Algoza and Sarangi performance by Idu Khan Langa and Asin Khan Langa*

While most Langa and Manganiyar musicians can play several instruments, only some become proficient in more than one instrument. And very few of them, like 65-year-old **Meherdeen (aka Meheruddin) Khan Langa** are highly proficient in the traditional instruments of their own community and equally proficient in the instruments credited to a different tradition.

From the age of 8 years, Meherdeen Langa learned to play both the Sindhi Sarangi and the Algoza. The Sindhi Sarangi was the purview of the Sarangiya Langa community, Meherdeen's community, who were singers as well. The women of the house would sing and young Meherdeen learned the songs and also learned to accompany the women on the Sarangi. Meherdeen was also responsible for grazing the goats owned by the family and learned to play the Algoza (the wind instrument of the Surnaiya Langa community, who usually did not sing or play the Sarangi), when navigating his way through the dunes, or leading the goats through the winter fog on the desert. His teacher was Mathar Khan Langa, a master who taught many leading Langa musicians, more than 50 years ago. In addition to becoming a young, masterful performer, Meherdeen also learned to be the genealogist of his patron's family. His first overseas performance was at the age of 21, traveling to the USA as a part of a larger group. He loved performing publicly and as his skill and mastery grew, he became recognised as a leading Langa musician. Now in semi-retirement, Meherdeen still performs whenever he can.

At the inaugural edition of Jodhpur RIFF in 2007, Meherdeen shared the stage with and masterfully held his own during a 10-minute collaboration with Padma Vibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia.

At Jodhpur RIFF 2024, Meherdeen's son Koju Khan accompanies his father.

## **MOODY RIFFS**

7:30 PM onwards

Zenana Courtyard

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

### ***Manganiyar of Marwar: Vocal Magic***

**The Manganiyar of Marwar** is an annual special performance by the artists of the community at Jodhpur RIFF, dedicated to the **late Padma Shri Sakhar Khan Manganiyar of Hamira** - doyen and custodian of their musical traditions, mentor and teacher par-excellence. Performed by senior legends of the Manganiyar community, this year we focus on the older songs and vocal traditions/ styles unique to their community, an expression of the desert like none other. The songs we will hear are rarely heard these days, even by their own patrons. **Barkat Khan** (Chattangarh), **Barkat Khan** (Myajlar), **Hakim Khan** (Kisola) and **Multan Khan** (Dedariya) render the songs, accompanied by Sakhar ji's sons **Ghevar Khan and Darre Khan** on Kamaicha, and their brother, the living master of the Rajasthani dholak, **Firoze Khan**. Friend and cousin, **Devu Khan** accompanies on the khartal.



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### ***Elli-Miller Mabougou: Percussive Persuasion***

A young versatile drummer/ composer/ teacher known for his dynamic and skilled performances, **Elli Miller-Mabougou** grew up in an african dance studio (Compagnie Danse Nyata Nyata, Montreal) and learned to drum before he could walk. Having played with many drum masters, whose influences have helped him establish his own drum style, Elli has been touring around the world with different musical projects and has been a part of many studio recordings (Afrotronix, Jazzamboka, Dominique Fils-Aimé, Joe Chambers with Blue Note records, Simon Denizart and many more). A young master of Congolese drumming, Elli has a remarkable ability to fuse traditional rhythms with contemporary music and is among a handful of figures in the music world, emerging strong in his genre. His performances and collaborations continue to inspire and bring the rich heritage of Congolese drumming to a global audience.

*India Premiere at Jodhpur RIFF 2024*

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

*Jodhpur RIFF presents a performance featuring some of the best young Manganiyar khartal players from Rajasthan. Led by **Devu Khan Manganiyar**, one of Rajasthan's lead instrumentalists.*

### ***Gabba: Tales from a Yoiker***

**Gabba**, meaning "Ivory-coated Reindeer," is a young and exceptional Sámi musical ensemble dedicated to evolving and preserving the rich music and storytelling heritage of Sámi culture. The Sámi are indigenous to the far northern parts of the Nordic countries and Russia. Unique to their tradition is Yoik (also spelled Joik or Jojk), one of Europe's oldest song traditions. A unique form with minimal lyrics or no lyrics at all, with associations to the ancient shamanic traditions of the indigenous Sámi, winners of the Spellemannprisen (equivalent to a Norwegian Grammy), Gabba weave traditional and modern yoik singing style into a vibrant musical tapestry influenced by Norwegian folk, Americana, and world music. At the heart of their sound is jojiker (yoik master) John André Eira, from Mazé in northern Norway, whose original compositions blend seamlessly with traditional yoik, creating an evocative and immersive experience. Known for their dynamic live performances, Gabba's youthful energy brings Sámi culture to the forefront, offering audiences an authentic musical journey that both enlightens and inspires.

*India Premiere at Jodhpur RIFF 2024*

### ***Barnali Chattopadhyay: Amir Khusrau***

**Amir Khusrau (also Khusro, Khusraw)** is probably the one name that almost every Hindustani and Carnatic (classical) singer and musician in the subcontinent is familiar with. He's equally revered among poets and writers and historians. Considered by some to be the 'father of Urdu literature' and 'the voice of India', Amir Khusrau was a 13th century Indo-Persian poet, singer, composer and writer, known for his commitment to music, Sufi, qawwali and the spiritual life in the court of Nizammuddin Auliya of Delhi. A disciple of the Chishti order, Khusrau's work developed at a time of great strife and war in the subcontinent and his messages of love and brotherhood remain relevant and magical to this day. Often credited with having created the *sitar*, his impact on the poetry and music of India is profound. And, centuries later, his 'Aaj Rang hai' or 'Chaap Tilak' are more popular than ever before.

Back by popular demand this year, and after her really well-received, recent project *Heeramandi*, Hindustani vocalist of Banarasi Maand and a well-known name in the *thumri* tradition, **Barnali Chattopadhyay** presents her unique selection from the works of Amir Khusrau for Jodhpur RIFF 2024.

Barnaliji's highly expressive voice that invokes a sense of great love and reverence for the themes of her music, promises to bring the words of Amir Khusrau to us fresh and vibrant. Having received much of her



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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. Barnali ji's music greatly invokes feelings of birha (sorrow), shringar (beauty/love), as well as devotion.

## 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 younger vocalists of the Kalbeliya community, led by **Mohini Devi**, new and emerging groups of the Manganiyar musicians from villages across the desert such as the one led by **Sawai Khan** (Keraliya) and masters of songs of the Rajasthani Sufi traditions among the Langa communities of Marwar, led by **Bundu Khan Langa**. 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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**18th OCTOBER**

**J RIFF DAWNS WITH THE SOUTHERN SOUNDS OF CHANDANA BALA KALYAN**

*5:30 AM to 7:30 AM*

*Jaswant Thada (outside Mehrangarh Fort)*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ J RIFF Dawns Pass Rs. 250/-*

*Chandana Bala Kalyan* presents a Carnatic vocal set that is both serene and vibrant, traditional and unique, accessible and deep. Chandana introduces us to *varnam, gana stuti, kriti, devaranama and tillana*, presenting special compositions in the rarely heard Bhatiyar, Bauli, Malayamarutam and Vibhas raagas. She will be accompanied by **Vidwan Vaibhav Ramani** on violin and **Vidwan Admaya Ramanand** on mridangam. Classical vocalist and educator, **Chandana Bala Kalyan's** work traverses across Carnatic, Hindustani, Sufi and Jazz with enviable versatility. Sometimes referred as a 'vocal gymnast', she has taken the Carnatic idiom and breathed new life into it, giving it newer expressions in her experiments with different musical styles.

**J RIFF DANCE BOOTCAMP I - LAVANI WITH ADITI BHAGWAT**

*9.00 AM to 10.30 AM*

*Chokelao Mahal*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*

'Marathi mulgi' **Aditi Bhagwat** brings the sensational **Lavani** to Jodhpur RIFF 2024's first dance bootcamp. Having trained extensively in *kathak* from an early age and developed numerous collaborations with jazz and flamenco, Aditi's heart is in her homeland and her *Lavani* performances are a treat to watch. Lavani can be both robust, yet delicate and is a folk form of song and dance popular in Maharashtra and in parts of southern Madhya Pradesh. Made famous through V Shantaram's film Pinjara, the Lavani was traditionally developed and performed by shepherd communities in the 18th and 19th centuries, often for the Maratha nobility. Performed in a 'nauvari' saree (nine-yard-long saree) to the beats of a *dholki*, *Lavani* gets its name from the same root word as 'Lavanya', meaning beauty.

*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 of this dance form.*

*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!!*

**IN RESIDENCE II**

*11:00 AM to 1:00 PM*

*Chokelao Bagh*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*



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**The Tamasha of Jaipur:** A 250-year-old social and dramatic form, the *Tamasha* combines music, acting and movement for storytelling. Following in the footsteps of his father Shri Gopi Bhatt, **Dilip Bhatt** started being involved in Tamasha from a young age and has been instrumental in keeping the artform alive and evolving. A spiritual soul, a keen theatre performer, and an integral staff member of the Jodhpur RIFF team since 2007, his practice has brought together over hundreds of young artists to revive *nukkad naatak*, *Tamasha* and practice contemporary theatre in Jaipur.

In this 'In Residence' session, audiences will get a bird's eye view of the story of survival of this traditional form, through the performance and words of its primary custodian, Dilip Bhatt.

## FILM SCREENINGS

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

*Chokelao Mahal*

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

This year we present two unique films on Sufi poetry and music, directed by leading world music journalist, ex-editor of Songlines magazine and filmmaker Simon Broughton. Shot in early 2002, 'Breaking the Silence: The Music of Afghanistan' documents the remarkable moment when the country was reconnected with its musical culture. 'Sufi Soul: The mystic music of Islam', written and hosted by historian and author William Dalrymple, brings to life a key message that music is a fundamental element of Sufism and a key to its practice.

Simon Broughton will be at Jodhpur RIFF and will present the films in person.

## MOONRISE

5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

*Jaswant Thada*

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

If the unfolding of a *raga* is a journey, then a *bandish* is its road map. In each era, the world of Hindustani music (north Indian 'classical') has been enriched by leading composers, through their contribution of innumerable *bandish*, some of which traveled beyond the boundaries of the *gharana* traditions that they emerged from and withstood the test of time to be included in and termed as traditional compositions. In the 20th century one such creator was Padma Bhushan **Pandit Chintaman Raghunath Vyas (C.R.Vyas)** trained in the Kirana, Gwalior, and Agra *gharana* who penned more than 200 *bandish* under the pen-name Gunijaan. And as a tribute to his own guru Gunidas, he started the Gunijan sammelan in 1977.

Each of his compositions reflected unique themes, covering a wide range of subjects including *guru bhakti*, devotion, spirituality, day-to-day lived experiences, nature, human relationships, love and romance to name a few. A highly sought-after teacher, the list of his students includes singers such as Pt. Jitendra Abhishekhi, Suhas Vyas (his son), Ganapati Bhat, Prabhakar Karekar, and Alka Joglekar.

The highly accomplished, multi-gold medalist in music, Hindustani vocalist **Anuja Zokarkar** brings the Sharad Poornima moon to Jodhpur RIFF 2024. An 'A' grade artist with All India Radio, Anuja learned from her mother Vidushi Kalpana Zokarkar, and her grandfather Pt. Krishnarao (Mamasahab) Mujumdar, himself an ace disciple of Sangeet Samrat Ustad Rajab Ali Khan Saheb of Dewas. Anuja's performance at Jodhpur



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RIFF features another highly accomplished vocalist **Kedar Kelkar**, along with **Dhyaneshwar Sonawane** on the harmonium and **Prasad Padhye** on the tabla. The performance will be facilitated by Shashi Vyas, Founder-Director of Pancham Nishad and son of C.R. Vyas.

## STRINGS & BEATS

7:30 PM onwards

Zenana Courtyard

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

### **Dayam Khan Manganiyar s voices from Kotda**

Few people know that Dayam Khan Manganiyar is one of Rajasthan's brilliant vocalists even though he has performed around the world in various groups for more than a decade. A long-time artist at Jodhpur RIFF, his is a key voice in the group Dhun Dhora and their collaboration with the Scottish acid-croft band Shooglenifty, that burned brightly between 2014-18. After numerous appearances in both Rajasthan and Scotland, and performances at the Commonwealth Games (2014), Celtic Connections, the Edinburgh Festival, the album *Written in Water* was recorded in the Mehrangarh Fort, co-produced by Jodhpur RIFF and released worldwide, with Dayam singing some amazing vocals in tracks such as *Jog yer Bones*, *Dhoriye* and *Bovaglie's Plaid*.

At Jodhpur RIFF this year, Dayam gives us a taste of his amazing vocal prowess and brings to life the traditional songs of the Manganiyars. He will be presenting his own group on the Jodhpur RIFF stage for the first time.

### **Emlyn: Sega world**

The young and path breaking Mauritian multi-instrumentalist, singer and songwriter **Emlyn** is an emerging artist who brings a breath of fresh air into the sega, creole and world music landscape with her soulful vocals and songs resplendent with nature. Emlyn Marimutu is increasingly becoming known for her talent in blending island drums, *Sega Tipik*, with modern music to create a 'new traditional' sound for Mauritian music. Deeply rooted in her traditions and heritage, her music combines African, Malagasy, and Indian music. Initially a dancer and a theatre performer, Emlyn is a committed environmental activist and creates timeless compositions inspired by the traditional music of Mauritius, often making instruments herself from local and upcycled materials. Presenting a mix of energetic spells and boisterous dances, the jubilation of her band is known to be contagious and often turns the audience space into a dance floor.

### **The Asin Khan Ensemble aka SAZ with Dilshad Khan: Marwar Malang**

For the Aga Khan Music Awards 2020-22, Festival Director Divya Bhatia was commissioned to produce a 6.5 min collaboration between a twelfth-generation young master of the Sindhi Sarangi **Asin Khan** of the Langa community from Badnava, and tenth generation Sarangi player from the Sikar gharana (also of Rajasthan), **Dilshad Khan** - both recipients of Aga Khan Music Awards that year. Showing off the talent and skill of the two winners, the collaboration also revealed the distinctness of each instrument and the magic of their playing together.

At Jodhpur RIFF 2024, Divya now presents this rare 'coming together' as a 40 min collaboration.

Asin learned from his father and uncle, and then trained under Padma Shri Lakha Khan Manganiyar, considered to be the all-time doyen of the Sindhi Sarangi, while Dilshad learned from his uncle Padma Bhushan Ustad Sultan Khan Sahab, one of the most revered names among Sarangi artists.

Both Asin and Dilshad have performed on numerous occasions at Jodhpur RIFF; this is their first time



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together. As they return to the Jodhpur RIFF stage, Dilshad will be accompanied by the emerging talent Rajan Dwarka of Jodhpur on tabla. Asin plays as part of his trio SAZ with Sadiq Khan on dholak, and Zakir Khan on khartal.

*India Premiere at Jodhpur RIFF 2024*

### **Interlude: Dholak**

*Jodhpur RIFF presents a performance featuring some of the best young folk dholak players from Rajasthan. Led by **Firoze Khan Manganiyar**, Rajasthan's foremost dholak instrumentalist.*

### **Natig Shirinov's rhythms**

Renowned percussionist and rhythm composer, **Natig Shirinov** from Baku, is a descendant of prominent musicians Ashig Shamshir and Ashig Shirin. Keen about drumming since the age of 9 years, his career took off when he was 24 when he joined the ensemble of Alim Gasimov, a celebrated master of *mugham*, the traditional blend of classical poetry and improvised music. Shirinov revolutionised the *nagara* (drums), blending traditional Azerbaijani rhythms with global influences, earning recognition as Azerbaijan's first rhythm composer. In 2001, he founded the Natig Rhythm Group, integrating old Azeri instruments like the *zurna* and *balaban*. Shirinov's innovations and performances have gained international acclaim, and his work continues to inspire new directions in Azerbaijani percussion music. While he is now recognised as his country's leading wedding percussionist, his group has toured worldwide, showcasing the rich musical heritage of Azerbaijan.

### **Warsi Brothers: Qawwali**

Qawwali maestros and brothers Naseer and Nazeer Ahmed Khan Warsi return with their group to the Zenana Courtyard for a magical Qawwali night. Accompanied by their *humnawas*, the energy and charisma the **Warsi brothers** bring to stage is a feat to watch and listen to. The **Warsi Brothers** are among the finest *qawaals* in the Indian sub-continent, hailing from the lineage of the '*qawaal bachhey* of the Delhi *gharana*', descendants of the disciples who learned directly from the legendary Amir Khusro, the iconic writer, poet, singer and Sufi mystic of the 14th century. Custodians of his *gayaki*, students of Padma Shri Aziz Ahmad Khan Warsi (their grandfather) and recipients of the Sangeet Natak Akademi award, the Warsi brothers present a wide repertoire of *sufiyana kalaam in qawaali*, many songs which we rarely hear and some popular compositions such as *chaap tilak* and *dam-a-dam mast qalandar*.

## **CLUB MEHRAN**

*Midnight onwards*

*Salimkot*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*

**Tropical grooves by Chonta DJ** A unique and highly respected artist and producer on the Colombian music scene, **ChontaDJ** aka **Alejandra Gomez** is a regular at Glastonbury and at Fuji Rock playing the best modern and traditional music grooves from Latin America. Her music is surprising, uplifting, daft and glorious all at once. She is also the founder and director of Biche, an alternative music production house, cofounder of the collective Todopoderosa for gender diversity in the Latin independent music scene, a DIY publicist, educational agitator, vinyl selector and underground promoter who deeply believes in collaborative and horizontal work.



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Winner of both a Grammy and a World award for Best World Music Album for Deep Forest, **Eric Moquet**, composer, musician and one of the geniuses of electronic music brings his magic to Club Mehran with a live set. Deep Forest made history by becoming the first French electro group to clinch the prestigious Grammy, featuring roots musicians from all backgrounds. With 10 million albums sold and over 100 million streams under their belt, their influence continues to shine on all current generations of electronic music. The live set at Club Mehran will also feature artists from the festival.

Club Mehran then brings on one of India's most underrated mix masters... synonymous with dance music in the country, **Farhan Rehman's** sets are a dynamic mix featuring afro, worldbeat, funk, jazz, house, disco, and so much more. Owing to his early training in classical piano, Farhan's understanding of music runs deep, and he uses it to go across the boundaries of conventional genres. Currently the host of 'The House of Juju', Farhan's is a familiar face in residencies across Mumbai. His groovy beats are sure to keep you off your seats!



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**19th OCTOBER**

**AN AFRICAN DAWN WITH LOUIS MHLANGA**

*5:30 AM to 7:30 AM*

*Jaswant Thada*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ J RIFF dawns pass Rs. 250/-*

Jodhpur RIFF is pleased to present the mellifluous vocals, and delectable guitar sounds of **Louis Mhlanga** at what promises to be a stunning African sunrise. Influenced heavily by traditional finger-picking styles of African instruments such as the *kora*, Louis' is a unique sound among jazz guitarists. He is celebrated as one of Southern Africa's finest roots and jazz musicians. Self-taught from a young age, Mhlanga's career began in the 1970s, where he led several Zimbabwean bands, blending American and local influences. He gained recognition working with iconic Zimbabwean acts like Shaka, Talking Drum, Ilanga, and Oliver Mtukudzi. His move to South Africa opened doors to new opportunities, leading to collaborations with legends like Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, Ray Phiri, and Busi Mhlongo. An award-winning guitarist and producer, Mhlanga's contributions remain pivotal in African music history.

*India Premiere at Jodhpur RIFF 2024*

**J RIFF DANCE BOOT CAMP II - KATHAK WITH TARINI TRIPATHI**

*9.00 AM to 10.30 AM*

*Chokelao Mahal*

*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 returns with her unique legacy to Jodhpur RIFF, to facilitate 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 of this form.*

*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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## IN RESIDENCE III

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Chokelao Bagh

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

**Pavakathakali, the unusual glove puppetry of Kerala:** Pavakathakali brings together the extravagance of two celebrated forms of theatre; the vibrance of the classical theatre of Kathakali and the playfulness of puppetry come together to dramatise and bring to life well known mythological stories. The puppeteers sit on the floor next to a *nilavilakku* (a lighted copper lamp) and perform for an audience seated around them. Accompanied by singers and musical instruments like *chenda*, *chengila*, *ilathalam* and *shankhu*, the glove puppets, adorned with golden ornaments, cowrie shells and gemstones require great dexterity to master. Jodhpur RIFF is honoured to present a facilitated, one-of-a-kind experience to engage with the artists and learn more about the craftsmanship and artistry behind this intricate artform, directly from its practitioners - the **Natanakairali Pavakathakali Ensemble, led by Guru G Venu** and produced by Alif Arts.

## FILM SCREENINGS

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Chokelao Mahal

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

This year we present two unique films on Sufi poetry and music, directed by leading world music journalist, ex-editor of Songlines magazine and filmmaker Simon Broughton. Shot in early 2002, 'Breaking the Silence: The Music of Afghanistan' documents the remarkable moment when the country was reconnected with its musical culture. And 'Sufi Soul: The mystic music of Islam', written and hosted by historian and author William Dalrymple, brings to life a key message that music is a fundamental element of Sufism and a key to its practice.

Simon Broughton will be at Jodhpur RIFF and will present the films in person.

## MOVES & GROOVES

5.00 PM to 7.00 PM

Chokelao Bagh

Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

### **Shaiva Koothu: Kutiyattam by Kapila Venu:**

Kutiyattam (meaning 'acting together'), one of the oldest living theatre traditions of the world and acknowledged by UNESCO as 'Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity'. With its roots in Kerala, this performance is an intricate mix of ancient Sanskrit theatre and traditional *koothu*, an ancient artform from the Sangam era. Kapila Venu, trained by the legendary Gurus Ammannur Madhava Chakyar, G Venu and Usha Nangiar, has been involved in teaching and performing this dramatised worship form, as well as *Nangiar Koothu* and *Mohiniyattam* for several decades now. Kapila's practice is an ever-evolving attempt at experimenting beyond the traditional possibilities of the ancient artform.



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### ***Inayat: A Duet for Four***

#### ***Kathak-Rajasthani collaboration with Tarini Tripathi & SAZ:***

*After the successful debut at Jodhpur RIFF 2023, Mumbai-based exemplary Kathak dancer Tarini Tripathi and young masters of the Langa tradition - SAZ - return to present their unique 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 and to Sufi kalaam, 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), 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.*

### **INSIGHTS**

*7:30 PM onwards*

*Zenana Courtyard*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*

### **Sumitra**

A radiant, characteristically rough yet soothing voice, is **Sumitra Das Goswami**, coming from Jaitaran, a small town in the Pali district of Rajasthan. In the unique cultural landscape of Rajasthan, the voice plays a critically important role. And women are the custodians, teaching the songs to the children of the communities. **Sumitra Das Goswami** is one of the most respected folk singers of the region, and it is not for nothing that she is informally referred to as the "Cuckoo of Rajasthan". Under the guidance of her father, she sang in neighbouring towns in her early youth at all night Jagaras: nocturnal vigils, replete with devotional and spiritual songs. Sumitra has also been active internationally. In 2009 she collaborated with Mumford and Sons and Laura Marling, in the intercultural music project "Dharohar Project" (commissioned for Jodhpur RIFF). In 2014 she toured Germany extensively, including a spectacular house-full performance at the prestigious Berlin Philharmonie. After a hiatus of a few years, Sumitra started performing again in 2021. Most recently, she performed at the Lincoln Centre in New York with SAZ and at the Kabir Yatra in Rajasthan. Sometimes Sumitra Das Goswami's voice appears so magical, as if it is no longer her singing but the person praised in the song: be it the Indian mystic poet Meera Bai or the Hindu goddess Radha (goddess of devotion and illegitimate lover of Krishna).

### **Sona Mohapatra**

**Sona Mohapatra** defies definition, and so does her music. Singer/ lyricist/ composer, equally at ease performing in classical or pop or folk, a pointed critic of misogyny and abuse, a much-loved social



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commentator (in her spoken word and in her songs), widely admired and loved as a playback singer, filmmaker, live performer and show woman, famous for her tracks such as Ambarsariya, Jiya lage na, and the recent Beda Paar, with cameos in the sensational talk show *Satyamev Jayate* and movies like *Delhi Belly*, *Khoobsurat* and *Talaash* - **Sona** is truly one of India's leading and independent artists - a real gem of contemporary India.

Although primarily trained in Hindustani classical, she has always nurtured great love for folk music and keeps it alive in her practice with what she calls 'Desi Soul' music. Back on the Jodhpur RIFF stage after 14 years, Sona presents an especially curated set for Jodhpur RIFF 2024.

### ***Gray by Silver: Shades of life***

Gray by Silver are a four-piece combo of keys, vocals, percussion, strings, and junggeum bamboo flute. The band finds equal inspiration from contemporary western classical, indigenous folk song, modern jazz, and new age instrumental. Their 2021 album, *The Song of Ethnic*, features intricately rendered arrangements of traditional vernacular tunes, Asian nursery rhymes and original compositions by the group's lead, pianist and composer HanBin Lee. Easily accessible and beautifully executed, Gray by Silver presents music that is unmistakable in its Korean identity but global in its aspirations. Gray by Silver attempts to draw what they themselves have faced in life, so their music seemingly belongs nowhere and ironically belongs everywhere. And yet, in many ways they are true representatives of today's Korea as much of their music essentially draws from Korean traditional sounds, revealing Korean oriental beauty.

### ***Puuluup***

One of the most intriguing folk bands to emerge from Europe, **Puuluup** are revolutionary in their own way. Responsible for reviving an ancient instrument, the *hiuu kannel* (also known as the *talharpa*) Puuluup treats people around the world equally... in the sense that their lyrics are mostly abstract with a mixture of languages (and even a self-invented language). Even audiences in their own country, Estonia, often don't understand their lyrics. Entirely groove-based in their compositions, their sound creates a landscape to set up unique textures. This unique feature allows Puuluup to give different explanations to the same songs, depending on their mood and that of the audience. The feeling arising out of a tune or song, helps free the imagination of the audience, a unique feature of their music.

Eurovision finalists and Estonian folk stars, their sound oscillates on the border of tradition and modern music styles, flirting with world music, underground and pop. Puuluup controls the vibrations of hiiu kannel's strings through effect blocks and a looper (looping pedal) and uses alternative playing techniques and sound generation options. Electronically amplified echoes, knocks, squeaks and scrapes are added to the soft hiss of the hiiu kannel. The music is at times dance-pulsating and at times cinematic and dark, creeping in and carried over from the chambers of the ancient Vormsi talharpists... original creations impregnated with tradition, references to punk classics and romantic, neo-zombie, post-folk... with educational content! According to Puuluup "Our main message in the context of folk music is that, look, you can do all kinds of things with the hiiu kandel, learn the instrument and make your own music."

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

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



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***Sukanya Ramgopal, Giridhar Udupa, Shreeharsha: Guru-shishya ghatam gharana***

Supremely proficient in *konnakol* (vocal percussion), Carnatic vocals, violin, mridangam and veena, **Sukanya Ramgopal** is actually better known as the first woman ghatam player in Carnatic music. She came up with the idea of '*Ghata Tharang* - where 6-7 ghatams of different shrutis are played together, and '*Sthree Thaal Tharang*', an all-women's instrumental ensemble. Having trained under legends like T R Harihara Sharma and Shri Vikku Vinayakram, she also has several glorious years at All India Radio, Doordarshan, and the inception of Sri Vikku Vinayakram School of Ghatam to her credit. Trained in Carnatic percussion, **Giridhar Udupa** is a master of South-Indian percussion instruments like *mridangam*, *kanjira* and *morsing*. But the true magic starts when he lays his hands on the *ghatam*, one of the oldest surviving percussion instruments in the country. Part of a team of classical musicians called *Layatharanga*, his practice is largely focused on bringing various forms of classical, folk and world music together. Giridhar has accompanied artists across genres, ranging from Carnatic to Jazz, but his performance at Jodhpur RIFF will be even more special, as he plays alongside his guru **Vidushi Sukanya Ramgopal** and student **Shreeharsha**.

**RIFF RUSTLE**

*Midnight onwards*

*Zenana Courtyard*

*Full Festival pass/ Day Pass*

**RIFF Rustle** is our largest, impromptu collaboration performance that concludes the festival's night-time revelries. Every year, the festival appoints a 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 two young, collaborating rustlers - **Giridhar Udupa**, acclaimed ghatam player of international stature and **Elli Miller-Mabougou**, ace Congolese percussionist and composer. Both will work together to gather musicians at the festival to come and jam with each other while collaborating with **other artists including 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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**20th OCTOBER**

**J RIFF DAWNS WITH KABIR PANTHI KALURAM BAMANIYA**

*5:30 AM to 7:30 AM*

*Jaswant Thada*

*J RIFF dawns pass Rs. 250/-*

A specialist in Kabir gayan, **Padma Shri Kaluram Bamaniya** has taken the soulful bhajans of Sant Kabir, Mirabai, Gorakhnath, Bannanath and many others around the world with his music. **Kaluram ji** started his musical journey as young as the age of 9 years, accompanying his father, grandfather and uncle on Manjiras. Widely loved by people of across traditions, Kaluram's voice has played a significant role in keeping the verses of Kabir alive.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- The Jodhpur RIFF program is subject to change, without prior announcement.
- Dates and timings for film screenings will be announced at the festival.
- For more information on the program, email: [info@jodhpurriff.org](mailto:info@jodhpurriff.org)
- The Opening Night concert on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October is free for all.
- Tickets are valid only from the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2024- Tickets go on sale online at [www.jodhpurriff.org](http://www.jodhpurriff.org) from the 3rd of September 2024.



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