Jodhpur RIFF Scheduled Program
22nd to 26th October 2026
(Open format listing)

22nd OCTOBER
BAL MELA - SCHOOL CHILDREN'S FOLK MORNING
7:30 AM to 12:30 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. Even though there are few accomplished practitioners left today, it continues to hold an iconic status in Rajasthan's performing arts culture.
Young Rajasthani musicians – For our young audiences we present young Rajasthani traditional vocalists and musicians. Trained by their ustad, the budding young masters will share their music, while 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.
Behrupiya - Blending a variety of art forms - acting, singing, dancing, etc., Behrupiya brings to life characters from Indian mythology, such as Ravan and Shiva. The artists, known as Nakal or Nakalchi, are masters of disguise and impersonation.
Chari Dance - A graceful dance form from the Kishangarh region of Rajasthan, performed by women balancing brass or earthen pots - chari - on their heads, containing a small flame. Originally performed to welcome the arrival of monsoon in the desert, it is a breathtaking display of poise and balance.
Bamrasiya - Bam rasiya, also known as Tamak, is a folk form from Alwar. Popularly performed to celebrate the harvest season, Tamak is characterised by huge Nagadas (Bam) that set the beat and the wooden sticks decorated with flowers and feathers that are used by the dancers
Bhagoriya nritya - Performed by the Bhil and Bhilala communities during their vibrant pre-Holi spring festival, the Bhagoriya dance is an exuberant celebration of youth, harvest, and courtship. Propelled by the thunderous rhythm of traditional dhols and flutes, dancers move in swirling, synchronized formations adorned in vivid attire and silver jewellery.
Khari nritya - 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
Moon parking area, on the way up to Mehrangarh Fort
Entry Free and open to all

Heralding the beginning of Jodhpur RIFF, our opening night concert features a wondrous variety of riveting performances reflecting the diversity of traditional Rajasthani artists, performances by national and international artists – music, song and dance - ending in an exhilarating finale with drummers and dancers. From folk to funk to male dancers and women's voices, this is an opportunity for anyone and everyone to experience the spirit of the festival in miniature, without having to purchase a ticket!
Be ready for a splendorous start to Jodhpur RIFF 2026!

The first day of Jodhpur RIFF is free for the city. In the morning the Bal Mela is free for school children and the evening concert is open to all – children, families, tourists and festival ticket holders.

23rd to 25th 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: ***Chari nritya, Bhagoriya, Khari nritya, Bhapang vaadan, Bamrasiya*** and the captivating vocals of ***Young Langa Musicians****!*

23rd OCTOBER
J RIFF DAWNS WITH THE MEGHWAL OF MARWAR
5:30 AM to 7:30 AM
Jaswant Thada (outside Mehrangarh Fort)
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ RIFF dawns pass Rs. 400/-

In true Jodhpur RIFF tradition, we begin the first of our dawn concerts with the gentle, soothing voices of the Meghwal, a community from the Marwar region in Rajasthan. While the community itself is not recognised as a 'professional' musician community, the Meghwal are superb singers. Traditionally pit-loom weavers, the women are known for their contribution to embroidery and the textile industry, but also for the rich folklore they nurture.Their patron saint is Ram Dev ji and singing bhajans in his honour is common in their villages. They also carry a long repertoire of devotional poetry of saint poets Kabir, Ravidas, Meerabai and Gorakhnath.
In keeping with tradition, this year sister duo **Dariya & Kelam** from the Meghwal community begin our first dawn concert. Under the light of the rising sun on a cool, serene morning, the melodic drone of the *tandura* (an unusual string instrument with a very distinctive sound), 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'). Their rendition is followed by the exquisitely masterful **Bhallu Ram and Mala Ram Meghwal.** Deeply rooted in the *Bhakti* tradition, their bhajans are conversations with the divine that have continued to remain relevant even centuries after they were written, now brought alive by seasoned voices from the Thar.

J RIFF DANCE BOOTCAMP
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM
Chokelao Mahal
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Kathak 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. By popular demand, 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!!

IN RESIDENCE
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Chokelao Garden
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Breathe and Emotion Workshop
Adishakti- one of India's most rigorous and respected theatre companies, uses the purely physical act of breathing for the stimulation of emotion and psychological expression. As breath is the physical expression of thought and emotion, it implies that a particular emotion has a particular pattern of breath. In this session facilitated by **Vinay Kumar** - actor, writer and Artistic Director of Adishakti, participants would be taught the 8 patterns of breath for the 8 emotions of Koodiyattam according to Natya Shastra and to explore the various degrees of emotions to communicate even the subtleties of heightened emotions. The participants would start discovering the movement of the facial muscles, eyes for every emotion and learn how to naturally shape or carve the face with the support of breath.

The workshop is open to actors, performers, non-performing artists and anyone interested in exploring the relationship between breath, body and emotion. No prior training or experience in theatre or performance is required.

MOVES & GROOVES
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
Chokelao Bagh
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

INAYAT: A Duet for Four
Four artists and two distinct traditions come together in this amazing collaboration. Originally developed for Jodhpur RIFF 2023, **INAYAT: A Duet for Four** is an original collaboration that has continued to grow over the past 3 years. With the young and immensely talented **Tarini Tripathi**, a third generation danseuse trained under her mother Gauri Sharma Tripathi and grandmother Padma Sharma, and the mellifluous music of **Sadiq Khan-** one of the finest *dholak* players in Rajasthan**, Asin Khan-** recipient of the Aga Khan Music Awards and arguably the best *Sindhi sarangi* player of his generation**,** and **Zakir Khan Langa-** *khartal* player extraordinaire - together forming the celebrated Langa folk trio **SAZ -** creating the foundation over which the performance develops… tales of devotion, longing and valour carried in the Langa repertoire are rendered visible in gesture, expression and footwork, without once diminishing their musical integrity. With **Gauri Sharma Tripathi's** Kathak choreography responding directly to the *dholak, Sindhi sarangi, khartal* and the songs of the Langa community of Rajasthan, INAYAT has graced stages in Rajasthan, Mumbai and New York, making its international premiere at the prestigious Lincoln Center, this year Jodhpur RIFF 2026 presents the first look at INAYAT's latest iteration.
This collaboration is an ongoing Jodhpur RIFF commission, developed in collaboration with ANKH, Mumbai

Brhannala
From Behrupiya to Kathak, Pava Kathakali to Kudiyattam, Jodhpur RIFF is committed to presenting unique and rigorous root performing arts traditions along with its music program.
And Jodhpur RIFF 2026 sees its first ever full-length theatre performance.
Based on an extract from the epic Mahabharat, in the thirteenth year of the Pandava's exile Arjuna disguises himself as a woman in the house of the Kauravas - the warrior becomes a teacher of dance and music in the court of Virata. What follows is a demanding year that makes Arjuna set aside everything he has defined himself by until then.
Adishakti Theatre - one of India's most rigorous and respected theatre companies, takes this episode of Arjuna's life as the premise of **Brhannala** to explore the idea of *advaita* (not-two or non-dual). Through the language of movement and metaphor, the performance questions what it means to inhabit another form without losing oneself, and whether the boundaries of the self and the other are as solid as we imagine them to be. In Arjuna's year as Brhannala, the play explores a profound enlightenment, that it is precisely in the act of becoming something else that we discover what we truly are.
Originally directed by the late Veenapani Chawla, and enacted by virtuoso **Vinay Kumar**, Brhannala is a one-of-a-kind confluence of theatrical depth, epic ideas and the existential dilemmas that are at the heart of what it means to be human.

7:00 PM
Dhanna Bhiyan Chhatri
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Jasnath ji ki Siddha
Legend has it that a 15th century folk deity Jasnath ji Maharaj of Bikaner, Rajasthan was actually an incarnation of Shiva, and as an infant, he would bathe in fire. Though few in number, it is in honor of this legend that the fire dance is still practiced by his followers even today. The *siddha* fire dance is a lively spiritual practice that requires incredible mastery of the senses. Equal parts ritual and performance and set to an elemental, continuous, trance-like music repertoire, the *siddha* usually takes place at the culmination of a *jaagaran* or all-night vigil.

MOODY RIFFS
7:45 PM onwards
Zenana Courtyard
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Mainstage opens with the mother- daughter duo **Ganga & Sundar**, guardians of a centuries old oral tradition of Rajwadi maand. Ganga started learning music from her mother, Sundar, when she was five. Sundar, in turn, learned from her father. Hailing from the Rao community of Pali, this mother-daughter duo is known for their enduring work in breaking gender and social norms by reclaiming their space in a male dominated folk music landscape. They are widely known for their renditions of traditional spiritual songs in their own inimitable style. Performing with them is **Mohini Devi**, senior vocalist from the *jogi Kalbeliya* tradition. Mohini ji is among the few women continuing the older Jogi musical repertoire, a tradition increasingly overshadowed by the internationally recognised kalbeliya dance form. She is known for her strikingly high-pitched voice that can match the register of the *pungi,* and her extensive knowledge of the Rajasthani maand.

Ashwini Bhide

Padma Shri awardee **Ashwini Bhide- Deshpande** is a distinguished vocalist of the Jaipur-Atrauli Khayal Gayaki tradition. Hailed as an exceptional talent among the "new generation of veterans" she brings both reverence and fresh insight to Hindustani music. Her oeuvre is deeply introspective, often an adventurous journey into the complex ragas distinctive to her gharana - compositions so rare and demanding that few vocalists dare to venture into them. Although firmly rooted in khayal, Ashwini ji is equally adept in lighter forms like Thumri- Dadra, Bhajans, Abhangs, and Sanskrit *stutis/stotras*, many of which she accompanies with compositions of her own. Her concerts are marked by thoughtful artistry, a warm stage presence, and the rare ability to make even the most intricate music deeply accessible.

Pedro Dias ft. Tomé & Inês

Celebrated as one of the finest Portuguese guitarists of his generation, **Pedro Dias** brings the intimate spirit and virtuosity of Lisbon's historic fado quarters to Jodhpur RIFF. Mentored by master António Parreira and refined through years of residency in legendary Lisbon fado houses and collaborations with artists such as Salvador Sobral and Júlio Pereira, Pedro leads a captivating exploration of the guitar that is at the heart of Portugal's fado.

At Jodhpur RIFF, Pedro will be accompanied on classical guitar by **Tiago Tomé**, raised in Lisbon's traditional neighbourhoods steeped in Fado, and **Inês Jacinto**, an emerging young voice in Lisbon's Fado scene, connected to tradition through a family legacy passed down through her father and grandfather.

Camila y Silvio

One of the most celebrated duos in contemporary Latin American folk music, **Camila y Silvio** have built a sonic universe firmly rooted in nature, ancestry and community. Their performances are an opportunity to witness rare instruments like the *charango*- a curious string instrument traditionally made from the shell of an armadillo, and the *legüero*- a large drum carved out of a hollowed tree trunk and covered with animal hide and fur, often alluded to as "the beating heart of the earth". Together, they bring a warm and infectious energy to music steeped in the folklores of the zamba, chacarera and cumbia traditions of South America. Their instruments are just as rooted in the land and life of Latin America.

This is Camila y Silvio's premiere festival appearance in India

Ilham

In true *sufiyana* style **Ilham (**intuition or divine inspiration) is a unique *qawaali* performance, a musical coming together of many Indian traditions that share common spiritual roots. **Smita Bellur** is a highly accomplished female vocalist accepted into the lineage of traditional *qawaals*, under the tutelage of the Warsi Brothers of Hyderabad, and brings over two decades of Hindustani music training in Khayal and her expertise in *sufi* mystic poetry. Accompanied by **SAZ** - the exceptional trio from Rajasthan's Langa community, whose own folk repertoire has carried the words of Sindhi *sufi* and *nirguna* spiritual traditions for centuries across the sands of western Rajasthan, Smita's classical rigour and her profound understanding of *sufi* kalam meets the earthy sounds of **Asin Khan's** *Sindhi sarangi***, Sadiq Khan's** *dholak* and **Zakir Khan Langa's** harmonium, to create a robust and profound musical experience.

CLUB MEHRAN
Midnight onwards
Salim Kot
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Isam Elias
Pianist, composer, singer, songwriter and DJ, **Isam Elias** moves effortlessly between the ancient and the electronic. Isam's solo project that he brings to Jodhpur RIFF is an Afro-Oriental set with the unmistakable emotional charge of Arab music. **Isam's** music combines Arabic pop melodies, traditional Levantine dabke rhythms and powerful electronic beats, that has, over the years, earned him a reputation as one of the most inventive voices at the intersection of Arab musical tradition and contemporary club music. Expect a powerful musical journey into folkloric oriental melodies, dancehall–meets-dabkeh dance beats and groovy electronic sounds!

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** evening with the sounds of Rajasthan:
Opening with ***Idu Khan Langa,*** one of the finest contemporary exponents of the exquisite double flute *alghoza* of the Surnai Langa community of western Rajasthan. Used by pastoralists while navigating their way through sand dunes, and to lead cattle through the winter fogs of the desert back in the day, the *alghoza* is an extremely rare sight today, with very few who have mastered it the way Idu ji has. At Jodhpur RIFF, Idu Khan Langa brings this timeless voice of the *alghoza*, inviting audiences into the rich sonic world of the Thar Desert through the artistry of a musician whose life is devoted to keeping one of Rajasthan's most distinctive musical traditions alive.
Followed by vocalist in Seraiki/ Punjabi ***Mir Bassu Khan***, a leading light among the Mir community from Bikaner. The Mir-e-Alam are a semi-pastoral people of the Mirasi community of the Bikaner/Pugal region of Rajasthan and have a strong, beautiful musical tradition of spiritual music. They sing the poetry of Baba Farid, Baba Bulleh Shah, Shah Hussain, Sultan Bahu and Khwaja Ghulam Farid in Seraiki/ Punjabi. While recent years have seen an increased interest (and research) in their music, much of it remains inaccessible and unexposed to potential audiences. The challenges of eking a daily existence have taken a toll on the cultural heritage of this community, as have numerous socio-political factors which are largely out of their control. And yet, their voices remain strong and clear.

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 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 11.50 pm or at the entrance to the Rao Jodha Park at 11.55 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 minutes) – so please wear decent shoes for walking!
Please carry something warm (it gets chilly); hot drinks & light snacks will be available for purchase.

24th OCTOBER
J RIFF DAWNS WITH THE SOUNDS OF MANIPUR
5:30 AM to 7:30 AM
Jaswant Thada (outside Mehrangarh Fort)
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ J RIFF Dawns Pass Rs. 400/-

Mangka Mayanglambam, ft. Marjing Mayanglambam, M.Mangangsana & Elangbam Jayanta
Musician, dancer, educator and passionate advocate for Manipuri folk performing arts, **Mangka** is one of the last remaining players of the Meitei folk instrument *pena* - a single string lute that was once a celebrated instrument at royal courts of Manipur, and usually played only by men. She is also a teacher and mentor to young musicians, many of them young girls who learn *pena* and folk performance under her guidance. Mangka's performances are a seamless blend of music, movement, and dance that embody the folklores and mythology of the Meitei culture.
At Jodhpur RIFF, Mangka will be joined by her guru and father, an elder of the community, **M.Mangangsana** on vocals, flute, and *langden*, **Marjing Mayanglambam** on *pena* and vocals, and **Elangbam Jayanta** on *pung* and *dholok*.

J RIFF DANCE BOOTCAMP
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Chokelao Mahal
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Ghoomar & Chari dance bootcamp
A stand-alone session that requires no prior dance experience, this is a rare opportunity to learn two extraordinary dance forms of Rajasthan from the fantastic **Durga Devi.**
Ghoomar is derived from the Hindi word '*ghoom*' which literally means 'to twirl'. One of the most popular dance forms of the country, as the name signifies, the chief movement of this form is pirouetting. The footwork and hand movements are always in synchronization with this spinning motion. *Ghoomar* 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.
Chari dance, although just as graceful, demands a great deal of balance from the dancer. It is usually performed by women balancing a brass or earthen pot - chari - on their heads, containing a small flame. Originally performed to welcome the arrival of monsoon in the desert, it is a breathtaking display of poise.

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.
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IN RESIDENCE
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Chokelao Bagh
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

My Boli Sajiri – Marathi: Language, Life & Legacy
My Boli Sajiri is an evocative celebration of Abhijaat Marathi Bhasha and the rich cultural legacy that has evolved through traditional Marathi. In conversation with **Dr. Meghaa Vishwaas, Sanjeev Dhuri, Varun Deore, Shashank Padwal,** and **Anurag Garge** through an engaging interplay of literature, music, storytelling and performance, as the session journeys through the many ways in which Marathi has shaped and preserved the cultural memory of Maharashtra. From the written word to oral traditions, from the sounds of traditional instruments to the flavours, clothing and celebrations of everyday life, every element reflects the depth and diversity of Marathi musical and cultural heritage.

NCPA's Page to Stage, in collaboration with Jodhpur RIFF, presents My Boli Sajiri – Marathi: Language, Life & Legacy - a celebration of the richness, cultural depth and enduring legacy of Classical Marathi Language. Page to Stage, a flagship literary initiative of the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA, Mumbai), conceptualized and curated in association with Dr. Sujata Jadhav. It brings books and the written word to life through readings, recitations and performances, creating a unique platform where literature meets the performing arts.
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 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.

LIVING LEGENDS
5:30 PM to 6:40 PM
Chokelao Bagh
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass
An evening with the stalwarts of Rajasthani performing arts.

Taga Ram Bhil
One of the foremost masters of the double flute *alghoza*, Padma Shri awardee **Taga Ram ji** has spent over 50 years, dedicating himself to this pastoral instrument of the Bhil community. At the heart of his performance is the extraordinary technique of circular breathing particular to the wind instrumentalists of Rajasthan, allowing an uninterrupted flow of music where melody and drone become inseparable. As one flute sustains a resonant, earthy note and the other weaves agile melodic phrases, the sound unfolds like the shifting winds of the Thar Desert- rhythmic, meditative, and hypnotic.
Every performance draws upon an oral tradition that has been nurtured across generations, presenting indigenous Bhil melodies that speak of landscape, memory, celebration, and community. Equally devoted to the craft of instrument making, **Taga Ram** continues to make his own instruments, ensuring that both the music and the instrument remain living traditions. Having carried the music of Rajasthan from village gatherings to stages across more than thirty-five countries, his performance at Jodhpur RIFF offers a rare opportunity to experience the timeless voice of the *alghoza* through the artistry of a musician

whose life's work has become synonymous with the preservation of one of India's most distinctive folk traditions.

Tungi Nath Nimbla
While the Kalbelia community is celebrated across the world for their traditional dance, few know of the extraordinary musical heritage that accompanies it. **Tungi Nath ji** is a master of the *been,* the haunting, sinuous instrument at the heart of the Kalbelia community's musical tradition. Born in Nimbla village, he began learning the *been* from his father at the age of ten. Today, with over fifty years of devoted practice behind him, and a life given entirely to the *been*, Tungi Nath ji stands as one of the last true masters of the instrument, and is among the most important living custodians of the Kalbelia community's musical heritage.

STRINGS & BEATS
7:00 PM onwards
Zenana Courtyard
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Folk Futures
Showcasing the young heirs of Rajasthan's root musical traditions.

Ghewar Khan, Feroze Khan, Darre Khan
Brothers **Ghewar Khan Manganiyar** and **Darre Khan Manganiyar** are the undisputed masters of the Kamaicha, a string instrument completely unique to the Manganiyar community. A unique Rajasthani string instrument, the *kamaicha* (a round bodied, fretless string instrument, variant of the Persian kamanche) is rarely heard today, with few musicians able to play the instrument as masterfully as brothers **Ghewar and Darre Khan Manganiyar** can. Sons and students of the late Padma Shri awardee Sakar Khan ji and custodians of his legacy, the brothers present a special showcase of some of the most unusual, significant, and legendary tunes of their traditional repertoire on the rustic, earthy and soulful kamaicha. Tying the trio together is their brother **Feroze Khan Manganiyar**, arguably the finest dholak player among Rajasthan's folk musicians. The brothers have made a name for themselves around the world, for their exquisite musical artistry, soul-stirring performances, and collaborations with classical and contemporary artistes from India and abroad. They are also teachers of their tradition, sharing the concern and care for the future of the legacy that they've inherited. On stage at Jodhpur RIFF they are joined by their sons…. All emerging artists in their own right.
In its present form, the kamaicha comes with 10-17 strings and is played with a bow. Made of mango wood, its rounded resonator is covered with goat skin. Three or four of its strings are goat intestines called roda and joda while the other 14 strings of steel are 'jhara'. The kamaicha (also called kamaicha, but completely different from the spiked fiddle from Iran – the kamancheh) bow is prepared from khejari; wood and horse tail hairs or synthetic thread. Small bells (ghungroo) are attached to the bow to produce rhythmic jingles along the notes.

Karolina Cicha, ft. Anita Dangi

Singer, composer, multi-instrumentalist and often a one woman orchestra... **Karolina Cicha** donnes many titles. Known for her powerful vocals and performances with an accordion in one hand, keyboard in the other and drums by her feet, she is an equally proficient in Yiddish and Esperanto. **Karolina's** life's work has been giving voice to communities whose languages and music have been quietly disappearing.

At Jodhpur RIFF this year, we get to witness Karolina's first ever collaboration with a Rajasthani folk singer, **Anita Dangi.** A treasure trove of a vast repertoire of the traditional music of the Damami community of western Rajasthan, **Anita Dangi** is one of the most important woman voices of the Rajasthani folk tradition today. Hailing from the village of Nimbola near Nagaur, she comes from a family that has been the custodian of the Rajwaadi Maand for generations. Trained by her mother Ratani Devi, she carries forward this form that closely resembles Thumri and Ghazal in its classical-like refinement, and is extremely difficult to master.

Look out for what happens when the custodians of music from the two worlds come together on the same stage.

This collaboration is a Jodhpur RIFF commission

Michael McGoldrick, Donald Shaw & Sorren Maclean ft. SAZ

Widely considered one of the UK's finest flute and Uilleann pipe players, **Michael McGoldrick** is defined by an extraordinarily lyrical playing style, and an unending curiosity that has taken him from the deep roots of Irish traditional music to collaborations with musicians across the globe. For his India premiere, joining him on keys and accordion, is his longtime collaborator and friend **Donald Shaw** - BAFTA nominated composer, and artistic director of Celtic Connections. They will be accompanied by guitarist, singer, songwriter and composer **Sorren Maclean** on the guitar.

At Jodhpur RIFF, we get to witness what unfolds when decades of friendship and musical partnership come together onstage, and the first look of a new project in the works, as **SAZ** begins to collaborate with the Scottish musicians.

Earlier in January 2026, Jodhpur RIFF presented the rising stars of the contemporary Rajasthani folk scene - SAZ - at Celtic Connections in Glasgow, one of the world's leading folk and roots music festivals.This October, Celtic Connections comes to Jodhpur, in the form of two of the most outstanding musicians of the tradition, both significant figures who have put Scotland's traditional music on the global map.

This performance is part of an ongoing artistic exchange between Jodhpur RIFF and Celtic Connections, Glasgow

Martha Redbone Roots Project

Martha Redbone is one of the most vital voices in American Roots music today. Her work spans folk, R&B, gospel, funk and traditional Native American music, heavily drawing from these traditional roots, incorporating their elements into her original music to create something that carries the fervor of gospel and the celebratory energy of indigenous music.

Joining her is **Aaron Whitby** - award winning pianist, songwriter, composer and record producer who is also Martha's longtime collaborator and husband. His piano is the melodic backbone to the fiery energy of Martha's voice.Together, they bring a performance that is the best of both worlds.

In their duo songwriter format, Redbone's powerhouse vocals—shaped by her Afro-Indigenous heritage and Appalachian upbringing—blend with Whitby's expressive piano and musical direction, creating a rich sonic landscape that moves effortlessly between genres and emotional registers. Through story and song, they share reflections on identity, resilience, and the human spirit, inviting audiences not just to listen, but to connect. Martha and Aaron's time at Jodhpur RIFF this year also marks the beginnings of a

collaboration between Martha, Aaron and SAZ- a budding conversation of two traditions deeply rooted in storytelling, ancestry and the resilience of community.
This is Martha Redbone and Aaron Whitby's premiere appearance in India.
This collaboration is part of an ongoing creative partnership between Jodhpur RIFF and Lincoln Center, New York.

Butter Funk Family
Record producer, songwriter and singer **Printz Board** is better known for his work with the music group Black Eyed Peas and as a multi Grammy winner and nominee. But at Jodhpur RIFF, **Printz Board** brings an authentic and original sound of the **Butter Funk Family,** a lethal combination of the energy of the 70s and irresistible and groovy music that you can't help but dance to. Tight drums, booming trumpet, driving bass lines, staccato guitars, brass that echoes in your head and lyrics that deliver funk commandments reminiscent of James Brown, the **Butter Funk Family's** music is a movement built around a single joyful mission: to spread love, groove, and funk to everyone in the room. Their music makes no distinction between age or taste. It makes you sing and dance along regardless.
Come ready to move!
This is Butter Funk Family's premiere festival appearance in India.

CLUB MEHRAN
Midnight onwards
Salim Kot
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

DOBBY
Jodhpur RIFF has always honored music that is inseparable from the communities that made it; music that carries the weight of history, land and remembering. **DOBBY**, the ARIA Award winning Filipino-Murrawari musician, drummer, rapper and composer from Australia is a torchbearer of that very tradition. A fierce advocate of truth and justice, **DOBBY's** music is an act of preserving cultural memory as much as it is performance. Rooted in storytelling, he fuses hard-hitting beats, live instrumentation, and urgent lyricism to deliver performances that are both electrifying and deeply moving.
This is DOBBY's premiere appearance in India.

Killabeatmaker
Hilder Brando Osorno, popularly known as **Killabeatmaker**, is a Colombian DJ, singer and songwriter from Medellin, and one of the most compelling Colombian voices in contemporary music. Jodhpur RIFF audiences will remember him from his Indian premiere at last year's festival. This year, he returns with his explosive DJ set, accompanied by **Guadalupe Giraldo** (*tambora, gaita,* vocals) and **Yulian Perc** (*alegre*, *congas*, vocals). Together, they bring a raw, high-energy experience where ancient sounds and modern electronics collide, moving effortlessly between freestyle, percussion, and soaring vocals.
Building on the collaboration that began at the festival last year, he will once again join forces with the celebrated Rajasthani *dhol* drummers **Chanan Khan, Pyaru Khan, Sawroop Khan and Sattar Khan, Dine Khan** on *morchang* and *khartal*, and **Zakir Khan Manganiyar** on the *khartal.*
What began last year as an instinctive, electric collision between Afro-Colombian indigenous beats and the folk traditions of the Thar returns this year with a stronger conversation between two traditions that have discovered a common musical language.
Killabeatmaker's collaboration is a Jodhpur RIFF commission

25th OCTOBER
J RIFF DAWNS WITH A SOULFUL SYMPHONY BY MERLIN D'SOUZA
5:30 AM to 7:30 AM
Jaswant Thada
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ J RIFF dawns pass Rs. 400/-

Merlin D'Souza, ft. Chintan Katti, Aniruddha Shirke, Avadhoot Phadke and Ruby Abley
Merlin D'Souza is one of India's leading female musicians, composers and pianists, widely celebrated for her work spanning Bollywood music, independent albums, theatre, and live performances across the globe. Equally fluent in western music and jazz, her true forte is the piano. Merlin's soul symphony brings that mastery to Jodhpur RIFF this year in a fluid, mellifluous blend of the instruments and sounds of the world, weaving a unique tapestry across timeless original compositions. She will be joined on stage by the young maestros **Chintan Katti** - one of the most proficient young *sitar* players in the country, **Avadhoot Phadke** and his superb accompaniment on the flute, and **Aniruddha Shirke's** magic on *tabla, pakhawaj* and ethnic percussion. Merlin will also be joined on stage by Jodhpur RIFF artist in residence, genre-agnostic improviser and saxophonist **Ruby Abley**.

J RIFF DANCE BOOT CAMP
9.00 AM to 10.30 AM
Chokelao Bagh
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Manipuri folk dances with Mangka Mayanglambam
An incredible opportunity to learn the basics of the vibrant Meitei folk dance of Manipur with dancer, musician, and educator **Mangka Mayanglambam.** One of the few women to master the *pena*- the traditional single-stringed lute historically played predominantly by men, Mangka's practice brings together music, movement, storytelling and dance, drawing deeply from the folklore and mythology of Meitei culture. Supported by **M.Mangangsana, Marjing Mayanglambam**, and **Elangbam Jayanta,** this is a rare opportunity to discover the stories of the Meitei culture embodied through movement and dance.

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!!

IN RESIDENCE
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Chokelao Bagh
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Folk Futures
Jodhpur RIFF brings together some of the most extraordinary artist-educators from the festival line-up for an open conversation about what it means to carry on a living tradition - to teach and practice as roots musicians, while also building a future for the next generation of musicians. Joining in conversation are **masters from the Langa and Manganiyar communities** of Rajasthan who are teachers of the youngest generation of Rajasthan's folk musicians under the aegis of the **Mehrangarh Museum Music Projects'** Folk Futures programme. Joining them from across the world are **DOBBY**- Australian rapper and educator whose own work is rooted in the living traditions of his Murrawarri and Ngemba lineage; **Esteban Perez** with **Camila and Silvio** whose life's work has been reviving ancient singing treasures of Chile; **Ayesha Vasdev** - founder of the independent folk music conservatory Sangeetcar with **Chanan Khan Manganiyar -** among the last remaining players of the *surmandal* who has singlehandedly kept this rare instrument alive, and **Mangka Mayanglambam** - folk musician, dancer and one of the few remaining players of the Manipuri *pena,* who has spent her life teaching and researching on traditional Manipuri instruments, with **Marjing Mayanglambam**. This session will be moderated by Divya Bhatia.

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 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.

MOONRISE
5:00 PM to 6:15 PM
Jaswant Thada
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ Moonrise Pass Rs 600/-

Ambi Subramaniam ft. Pratik Shristava, Ojas Adhiya and Akshay Ananthapadmanabham
Led by **Ambi Subramaniam**, Jodhpur RIFF presents India's great classical music traditions - Carnatic & Hindustani together in a rarely seen seamless onstage dialogue. A Carnatic violinist of extraordinary virtuosity, **Ambi** was trained by his father, the legendary Dr. L. Subramaniam. Ambi has taken the carnatic violin to stages across the world, collaborating with artists across genres and traditions, and built a reputation as one of the most versatile and adventurous young voices in Indian classical music today. Joining Ambi's Carnatic prowess onstage is **Pratik Shrivastava** on the *sarod* - an instrument of meditative depth and lyrical beauty, and in Pratik's hands, shaped by the rigour of the Maihar gharana and his natural sensitivity to cross-genre collaboration. Grounding this conversation's rhythm are two formidable percussionists - the amazing **Ojas Adhiya** on the *tabla*, a recipient of the Ustad Bismillah Khan Puraskar, and the virtuoso, Sangeet Natak Academy Yuva Puraskar awardee **Akshay Anathapadmanabhan** on the *mridangam*.

INSIGHTS
6:45 PM onwards
Zenana Courtyard
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass

Sindhi Sarangi Special
Musicians of the Langa community of western Rajasthan have, for centuries, been historians, poets, storytellers, musicians and genealogists. At the heart of their music is the *sindhi sarangi*, a most unusual, handmade traditional instrument unique to the Sarangiya Langa community. The Sindhi Sarangi was built to follow the human voice so closely that it could be mistaken for one. With up to 28 strings, and a playing technique unique to the Langa tradition- using the cuticle and the back of the finger underneath, it produces a sound that has become the identity of the Langa community.
Today, it is an extremely rare instrument, with few practicing musicians, and fewer makers left. In honor of this extraordinary instrument, Jodhpur RIFF presents some of the best *sindhi sarangi* players of their generation.

***The Book of Queens (Malekeh nâmeh** in Persian)*
A celebration of female figures from Europe, India and Iran: heroines, warriors, saints, mystics, poets and composers, from medieval times to the present day… from Malek Khatoom and Rabea Balkhi to Hildegard of Bingen and Barbara Strozzi, from Gordafarid to Forough Farrokhzad, from Mirabai and Lal Ded to Akka Mahadevi, their voices transcend centuries to speak of love in all its forms: carnal, mystical, spiritual, forbidden, imagined, or sacrificial
Artistically led by **Camille Bordet**, a Persian-speaking opera singer, this project explores the often historically marginalised place of women within artistic and cultural heritage. Originally thought as an Iranian-European dialogue, it has now expanded to include an Indian voice, transforming "The Book of Queens" into a space of encounter between three worlds where scholarly traditions, oral transmission, poetry, spirituality, and contemporary creation intersect. The Book of Queens is a poetic and musical journey across time and culture — an invitation to let forgotten female voices resonate and to weave new forms of dialogue between India, Iran, and Europe.
The music emerges from the encounter between the artists themselves: musicians rooted in written classical traditions as well as oral transmission and singers and instrumentalists whose languages, cultures, and artistic practices differ. Built around **collective creation,** the project combines improvisation, reinterpretation of ancient repertoire, and original composition. Each artist brings their own story, sensitivity, and music to this shared work.
Joining Camille Bordet on The Book of Queens are: **Hamin Honari** - Iranian-Canadian hand drummer and specialist on the Persian *tombak and daf*; renowned Canadian string instrumentalist **Madeleine Owen** on lutes & historical guitars, **Saeed Kamjoo** on the Persian *kamanche;* **Maryam Tazhdeh** on the *tar;* the accomplished Hindustani vocalist **Smita Bellur,** among India's first female Hindustani vocalists to be accepted into a lineage of traditional Qawaals who draws from the spiritual poetry of the subcontinent; young *kamaicha* maestro **Kode Khan Manganiyar** from the heartland of Rajasthan, the Thar desert.

Co-commissioned and co-produced by Jodhpur RIFF, "The Book of Queens" is the festival's tribute to the women of Marwar and their role in the history of Rajasthan.
This is the Book of Queens' premiere appearance in India.

Emilia Lajunen ft. Asin Khan Langa

Emilia Lajunen is one of the most captivating voices in contemporary folk, her expertise being the keyed ancient five-string fiddle- Biancospino, Kontrabasharpa, and their most modern variation- the 16 stringed Nyckelharpa. Her music is earthy, hypnotic, and full of emotion, drawing listeners into a landscape where the old stories still know how to sing. This is perhaps why she's been famously described as playing "like a village full of haunted fiddlers."

This year marks her third appearance at Jodhpur RIFF, and it comes with a glimpse into Emilia's first Finnish-Rajasthani Folk project in collaboration with the young maestro **Asin Khan Langa** on the Sindhi Sarangi. A traditional instrument unique to the Sarangiya Langa community of western Rajasthan, it is considered to be the only string instrument in the world having a sound quality that comes closest to the human voice. A collaboration driven by curiosity and a shared love for strings, Sadiq Khan and Zakir Khan Langa.

This collaboration is a Jodhpur RIFF commission

Puuluup

There are bands that cross borders, and then there is **Puuluup** - with their music that has made borders entirely irrelevant. This nu-folk duo, **Ramo Teder** and **Marko Veisson**, return to the Jodhpur RIFF stage, oscillating on the border of tradition and modern music styles, flirting with world music, underground and pop. At the heart of the music Puuluup brings to Jodhpur RIFF is the *hiiu kannel* or the *taal harpa* - an ancient bowed lyre revived from the edges of extinction, run through effect blocks and loopers, layering electronically amplified echoes, knocks and scrapes over the soft hiss of its strings. What results is dance-pulsating grooves and something cinematic and dark - post-folk, neo-zombie, punk-referencing and entirely their own.

Puuluup controls the vibrations of *hiiu kannel'*s strings through effect blocks and the looper using alternative playing techniques and sound generation options.

Finalists of the Eurovision song contest, the men themselves say modestly about their work: "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."

RIFF RUSTLE

10:45 PM 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.

This year we have two rustlers - ***Killabeatmaker & DOBBY***, supported by ***Merlin Dsouza.*** Together, they will gather musicians at the festival to 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!

26th OCTOBER
J RIFF DAWNS
5:30 AM to 7:30 AM
Jaswant Thada
Full Festival pass/ Day Pass/ J RIFF dawns pass Rs. 400/-
A soulful, poetic morning with Manpreet Singh

PLEASE NOTE:
- The Jodhpur RIFF program is subject to change, without prior announcement.
- For more information on the program, email: info@jodhpurriff.org
- The Opening Night concert on the 22nd of October is free for all.
- Tickets are valid only from the 23rd of October 2026
- Full Festival Pass holders can access all festival events
- Passes for dawn concerts can be purchased on the day of the concert, at the venue only, IF seats are available.
- Tickets go on sale online at www.jodhpurriff.org from the 20th of August 2026