



SURTAL ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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Shaam-E-Ghazal showcase event brings traditional music and poetry to Derby in May



Derby's Surtal Arts are delighted to present an evening of Ghazal and Geet music and poetry in May, presenting some of the best South Asian vocal and musical talent from Derby and the region. The Shaam-E-Ghazal event will pay tribute to the late Punjabi poet, Shiv Kumar Batalvi as well as honouring the music of ghazal legends including Jagjit & Chitra Singh, Mehdi Hassan, Ghulam Ali, Madam Noor Jahan and Reshma.

For the Shaam-E-Ghazal event, Surtal Arts have commissioned upcoming talent of local and regional South Asian artists who will be performing traditional Ghazals and Geets. Ghazal is a poetic form consisting of rhyming couplets, usually in Urdu or Persian, set to music and mostly performed solo. It is probably the single most popular light classical form in South Asia as well as its huge diaspora abroad.

Vocalists Satish Verma and Priya Kaur will be putting their own spin on some of the most iconic Ghazals of all time as they perform in Punjabi and Urdu language. They will be accompanied by musicians Kamalbir Singh, Shubham Tajeja and Upneet Singh.

Gopa Nath, Surtal Arts CEO, commented: *"Surtal Arts have commissioned emerging South Asian artists who are skilled, ambitious and also passionate about their artistry. The commission is about giving these performers a platform and an opportunity to become more widely recognised for their exceptional talent. Through the commission we are reclaiming and preserving heritage arts like Ghazals that are in danger of being lost."*

Surtal Arts are a Derby based combined contemporary arts organisation with specialism in South Asian arts & culture, supported by funding from The Arts Council England.

Shaam-E-Ghazal takes place on Saturday 24 May, from 7pm, at 19 Chapel Street in Derby (formerly Déda). The total performance will last for 120 minutes with one interval, and the event is suitable for anyone aged 10 and above. Tickets are £15 or £12 Concessions. Tickets can be booked in advance through the website: <https://www.surtalarts.co.uk/shaam-e-ghazal>

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ABOUT SURTAL ARTS

Surtal Arts is a Derby based combined contemporary arts organisation with specialism in South Asian arts & culture. Based in Derby for over 30 years, Surtal exist to create educational experiences and cross-cultural productions that enrich the lives of everyone. Surtal Arts aims to create, celebrate and debate diversity in the arts and be a home for South Asian Arts learning and creativity and to deliver a body of innovative, contemporary new work that is relevant, meaningful and sustainable. Surtal provides on demand arts workshops in schools, college, health sector and care homes throughout the year, regular [dance class](#) & [choir singing](#) & organise annual festival [Derby Season of Light](#) & Derby [Lantern Parade](#) in partnership with various arts & cultural partners from Derby and Derbyshire. Surtal Arts is funded by Arts Council England. **For further information please see <https://www.surtalarts.co.uk/>**

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Satish Verma has rich, soulful voice and a deep passion for music with over 30 years of experience in singing Ghazals, semi-classical, Hindi, Urdu, and Punjabi songs. Inspired by his mother who was a great devotional singer, Satish started his vocal training from the age 11. After arriving in Derby in 1982, Satish became very involved in the community, teaching young people and improving their vocal techniques.

Priya Kaur has been involved in vocal music from a young age, having learnt Shabad Kirtan from her mother. Since then she has developed a passion for soulful ghazals, geets and shabads. Priya has developed her vocal ability with Surinder Singh Sond ji, Tofail Ahmed ji and Ustad Dharambir Singh MBE and Shri Mukul Kulkarni. Whilst vocal has been her main focus, Priya also learnt tabla from Bhai Gurmeet Singh Virdee aiding her understanding of rhythm.

Kamalbir Singh is a multi-talented, critically acclaimed violinist, ghazal singer and teacher. Kamalbir learnt classical music from his father, Raghbir Singh, and went to learn violin from Pandit N.L. Nathan, Sarangi Nawaz Ustad Nazar Hussain and Pandit Ram Narayan ji. He became interested in singing Ghazals inspired by Jagjit Singh. Violin is his first passion, he has continued playing concerts in India and Europe; including Tansen Sangeet Samaroh in Gwalior including prestigious appearances at the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Barbican Centre, WDR Philharmonic Orchestra in Cologne.

Upneet Singh has been learning Tabla from the age of five and is a disciple of Pt Sanju Sahai of the Benaras Gharana. The son of Sitarist Ust Dharambir Singh MBE, Upneet has had the opportunity to nurture his musical intellect with exposure to various instruments, musical projects and interaction with great artists; learning the art of accompaniment that brings out his musicality through the sweet melodious sound of the Benaras Gharana.

Shubham Tajeja is a versatile music producer, multi-instrumentalist, and audio engineer, renowned for his profound command of sound and performance. His exceptional skill on the bansuri, guitar, Morchang , konnakkol and algoza, has made him a sought-after performer on both domestic and international stages. Shubham's musical journey began at a young age, driven by an enduring fascination with Indian folk music and over time his artistry expanded across genres, blending folk with modern influences. His love of poetry of late Shiv Kumar Batalvi, led Satish to this music commission for emerging artists, exploring poetry through ghazal.

For images or further information about this event, please contact: Kathy Wilson, 0779144194 kathymwilson31@gmail.com