

Summer Solstice Festival 2018: when opposites meet

A two-day long Festival of recitals, talks and world class music in the heart of Leeds



South Asian Arts uk (SAA-uk) and Leeds College of Music join forces to bring to Leeds recitals, talks and world class music on this 2018 Summer Solstice. International artists Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh and Suhail Khan, will share the stage with rising stars Jasdeep Singh Degun and Gurdain Singh Rayatt, showcasing some of the best Indian classical music. The events will be held on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd of June at the Leeds College of Music from 1pm to 11pm.

The Summer Solstice Festival is back for its seventh year, expanding its programme to two days of concerts, talks and recitals. **This year's edition will explore the dualities and oppositions that make up India's classical music tradition.** Over the two days of the Festival there will also be the opportunity to listen to a host of early Indian instruments, like veena, sarangi, ghatam and mridangam, alongside the more popular sitar and tabla.

The concerts will take place in the **brand-new Rooftop extension at the Leeds College of Music and the Venue**. This striking performance space is enclosed with a full perimeter

glazed screen, allowing the audiences to **enjoy breathtaking city views** while listening to trancelike melodies from the North and South of India.

Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh comes from a lineage of musicians who have been practicing Carnatic music for six generations and started playing the Saraswati Veena at the age of 3. Apart from several prestigious venues and festivals in India, Jayanthi has performed at several international festivals such as **San Francisco Jazz Festival and Darbar festival**.

Suhail Khan begun his Classical training from a very young age, learning under his grandfather and world-famous musician **Ustad Sabri Khan**. A celebrated and innovative artist, Suhail's high level of skill and versatility have also led him to explore fusion music with the folk supergroup **Yorkston/Thorne/Khan**, which made an appearance at **Glastonbury 2017**.

Jasdeep Singh Degun, Leeds-based sitarist and winner of the Sky Academy Scholarship, is a rising star of the Indian classical and contemporary music scenes. Jasdeep acquires a deep insight into the art of Indian Classical music through his teacher, Ustad Dharambir Singh MBE, and has performed in many prestigious venues, including **Buckingham Palace, the Amphitheatre in Doha, and the Royal Albert Hall at the 2014 BBC Proms**.

Both Festival days will begin with a relaxed one-hour **Lunchtime Recital** starting at 1pm. The day will continue with a free **Indian Music Appreciation pre-show talk** from 6pm to 7pm. The talk will then be followed by the **One Evening: Two Traditions** double bill performance, ending at 11pm.

The full Festival Pass option, including all the events on both days, is available for £30 (£25 conc.). Single event tickets are also available. Tickets for the **One evening two traditions** events and the **Festival Pass** include a free drink (tea/coffee). Delicious vegetarian Indian food will also be on sale at the evening concerts on both days.

Tickets can be bought in advance and on the door. Box Office: 0113 222 3434. Book Online: <https://www.lcm.ac.uk/whats-on/summer-solstice-festival/>

- Ends -

For press information, please contact Barbara Cardone at barbara@saa-uk.org

For further information on SAA-uk, visit www.saa-uk.org or call 0113 244 5523 or email info@saa-uk.org