



Musical magic at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival

- Popular Shillong Chamber Choir to open the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival
- Top classical musicians to start your Festival days include Padmini Rao and Devashish Dey
- Music influenced by Sufi qawwal to hip-hop brings top bands including Bombay Bassment, Kabir Café, Raghu Dixit, Beth Orton & Sam Amidon Aga Khan All Stars and Inna Modja to evening music stage
- Evening Music passes available at <http://music.jaipurliteraturefestival.org/> and on ground at Diggi Palace Hotel and Clarks Amer (Rs.400/- per day OR Rs.1200 for all 4 days)

As a whirlwind of literary figures prepare to descend on the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, an eclectic mix of music artists are set to perform morning and night at the five day literary extravaganza. The music performances will take place at two locations, the Front Lawns at Diggi Palace in the morning and the Music Stage at Hotel Clarks Amer in the evening, as part of the world's largest free literature festival this month, January 19-23, 2017.

FRONT LAWNS at DIGGI PALACE, 09:00 - 09:45, 19-23 January 2017 (Free with General Registration)

Opening the festival on January 19 is the **Shillong Chamber Choir**, marking the start of five days of festivities at Diggi Palace. The choir shot to prominence when they won reality TV show *India's Got Talent* in 2010, the same year picking up three gold medals at the 6th World Choir Games. Their wide range of repertoire from western classical favourites, to rock hits and Khasi folk music and opera has seen them perform across India including for U.S. President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama during their state visit to India.

Following the Choir's appearance, Master drummer of Rajasthan, **Nathoo Lal Solanki** will perform at the inauguration ceremony to open the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017.



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Manarovar Building, Ground & 1st Floor,
Khasra No-366 Min, Village Sultanpur, Delhi - 110030, India
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Email: info@jaipurliteraturefestival.com
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The second day January 20, will kick off with a performance by **Swanand Kirikire** and **Ankur Tiwari**.

Swanand Kirikire is a lyricist, actor, playback singer, scriptwriter and assistant director for Hindi television, films and theatre. He has written songs for more than 50 films and is a two-time winner of the National Film Award for Best Lyrics. He received his first National Film Award in 2007 for the song 'Bande Me Tha Dum...Vande Mataram' from the film *Lage Raho Munna Bhai*, and the second in 2009 for 'Behti Hawaa Sa Tha Woh...' from *3 Idiots*. '[Piyu Bole](#)' featured in the 2005 movie [Parineeta](#) was nominated for a [Filmfare Award](#) for Best Lyrics while *Barfi's* 'Aashiyam' and 'Manjaa' from *Kay Po Chhe* were awarded IFFA and Life OK Screen awards.

Ankur Tewari is a storyteller. He has spent the better part of his life discovering different mediums to share his tales. His songs are simple and evocative; they come from an honest, and at times vulnerable space, making them easy to form an instant connection with. Tewari plays with his band The Ghalat Family. He is also a well known Bollywood lyricist and composer and is at the helm of the band's sound.

On the morning on January 21, festival goers can enjoy a performance of **Padmini Rao**, an accomplished exponent of the Kirana Gharana form of North Indian classical music. One of the most senior of Padma Bhushan Dr. Prabha's disciples, she trained in sitar from Pramila Dagar. Discovering her first love was for vocal music, she also studied under the guidance of the late Ustad Zia Mohiuddin Khan Dagar, the renowned scholar, dhrupad and rudra veena maestro.

On the morning of January 22, the fourth day of ZEE JLF, acclaimed vocalist **Devashish Dey** will awaken the crowds and set the tone for the day ahead. A classical singer who specialises in thumri, dadra, tappa, chaiti and kazri styles and sings bhajans too, Dey has performed widely across India and the UK and released many albums.

On the last day of the Festival, January 23, **East Meets Middle East** kicks off a lively day of literature



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celebration. East Meets Middle East is a musical collective spanning continents and celebrating the rich traditions of the Middle East and South Asia. Subrata Bhattacharya (tabla) and Abhisek Lahiri (sarod) collaborate with Ronnie Malley (oud) and George Lawler (percussion) to create a cross-cultural palette of improvisations and original compositions. The group transcends boundaries as they move through raga and maqam, tala and iga, music and rhythms found in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

MUSIC STAGE at HOTEL CLARKS AMER, 19:00 - 22:00, 19-22 January 2017 (Tickets Rs.400/- per day OR Rs.1200 for all 4 days - available from the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival website and Diggi Palace or Clarks Amer during the festival, FREE with Delegate Registration)

Kick-starting the evening music programme with a fantastic night of boundary breaking music, **Rajasthan Josh** and **Neeraj Arya's Kabir Café** take to the stage of Clarks Amer on the first evening of ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017.

Rajasthan Josh is a world music band which combines the various folk traditions of the north-western region of India, ranging from traditional bhajans to popular folk songs and mystic Sufi Rajasthani music, interspersed with captivating folk dances.

Neeraj Arya, the voice of Kabir in the contemporary scene, has been relentlessly researching and performing Kabir poetry across the country for the last six years. His rendezvous with Kabir began with the film Had Anhad by Shabnam Virmani. Influenced by folk Kabir artistes like Prahlad Tipanya and Mir Mukhtiyar Ali, Neeraj applied his own musical sensibilities and pioneered a genre called Kabir Rock.

As night falls on Friday evening (Jan 20th) the terrific line up of **Bombay Bassment** and **Inna Modja** are set to wow the crowds.

Award winning **Bombay Bassment** combines the sounds of hip-hop, reggae, funk, and drum & bass. The



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band released their self-titled debut album in 2014 and has won multiple awards. They've played some of the best music festivals in the world including Glastonbury Festival and Bacardi NH7 Weekender, and have shared the stage with Snoop Dogg, The Wailers and Will & The People among others.

Inna Modja will transport you to the heart of Mali. Singer of hits including 'Mister H', 'French Cancan' and 'La Fille du Lido', Modja learned her singer-songwriter craft from her elders creating a sound based in Motown soul, Sahel desert Blues, Mandinka guitars and Kora meets hip-hop.

Saturday night (Jan 21st) sees **Soulmate** and **Beth Orton & Sam Amidon** take the stage at Clarks Amer.

Inspired by the roots and groove sounds of the Blues, Blues-rock, soul, rock 'n' roll, funk and R&B, **Soulmate** was formed when Rudy Wallang and Tipriti Kharbangar decided to form a band dedicated to spreading awareness about the Blues genre.

Beth Orton is a singer and songwriter who has released six trailblazing albums, including the BRIT Award-winning *Central Reservation*, and 2012's 'Sugaring Season', which Vogue described as 'a beautiful and timely album, filled with melancholy'. **Sam Amidon** is a singer/banjoist/fiddler/guitarist originally from Brattleboro, Vermont. He has released five acclaimed albums of radically reimagined folksongs on the Bedroom Community and Nonesuch labels, most recently 2014's *Lily-O*.

Closing the Clarks Amer Music Stage on Sunday evening (Jan 22nd) will be the world-class line up of **Lisa Hannigan**, **Aga Khan Music Initiative Ensembl** and **The Raghu Dixit Project**.

Lisa Hannigan's haunting voice has featured on soundtracks for TV series *Fargo* and Oscar-winning *Gravity* and she has collaborated with artists as diverse as Ray LaMontagne, Richard Hawley and Herbie Hancock. Her new album *At Swim* is her most bewitching yet.



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Aga Khan Music Initiative, a programme of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, is an inter-regional music and arts education programme to preserve, transmit and develop musical heritage in contemporary forms. The **Aga Khan Music Initiative Ensemble** brings together the Initiative's leading artists and AKTC's collaborators of the past fifteen years. These master musicians are not only brilliant performers, but also pioneering composers, arrangers, improvisers, teachers, and mentors. They bring all of these talents and abilities to bear on their work with the Aga Khan Music Initiative, drawing inspiration from the past to create new music, and playing an active role in the Music Initiative's education programme. Homayoun Sakhi on the Afghan *rubab*, Wu Man on the *pipa*, Saxophonist and composer Basel Rajoub, Salar Nader on *tabla*, Andrea Piccioni on single-headed frame drums, and *qanun* player Feras Charestan. The Ensemble will perform a newly created repertoire of compositions, improvisations and contemporary arrangements inspired by tradition.

Bringing Clarks to a close are one of India's biggest cultural and musical exports, **The Raghu Dixit Project**. Their infectious, happy music transcends age, genre and language. From playing to over 100,000 people in Karnataka, to Glastonbury and even playing for the Queen of England, Dixit has done it all! Have a great time to their earthy, rooted, vibrant yet simple fun.

Music also features in the Heritage Evenings presented in partnership with Rajasthan Tourism. **Bringing together arts and culture with built heritage, two mesmerising Heritage Evenings** at the magnificent Amber Fort and the spectacular Hawa Mahal run parallel to the Festival on the evenings of January 20th and 21st.

Rhythm and Rhyme will be an evening of poetry readings held at Amber Fort, Jaipur on Friday, 20th January at 7.30 PM. Bringing together voices from two sides of the globe, the session will witness readings by celebrated American poet Anne Waldman and the renowned Bollywood lyricist Swanand Kirkire. This will be followed by Sarod Recital by Padma Vibhushan Ustad Amjad Ali Khan at the Amber Fort.



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Mujre Se Multiplex Tak, will take the audience on a journey through the magical realm of entertainment at Hawa Mahal on **Saturday, 21st January at 7:30 PM**. Coursing through the ever changing world of cultural entertainment, the session will explore how the audiences at entertainment venues have evolved over the years. Writer and musician Vidya Shah will reflect on these changes through song while actor Luke Kenny punctuates them with poignant poetry and quirky banter.

ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival Music Programme Day-by-Day

Tickets available on the Jaipur Literature Festival website & also available for pick up at Diggi Palace at the Registration Desk from **January 15th onwards** and at Clarks Amer from 10 AM onwards on the Festival days (19th - 22nd January)

Thursday 19 January, 2017

09:00 - 09:45 - Front Lawns, Diggi Palace

The Shillong Choir (FREE with General registration)

Gates open 6:30, 7.00 - 10:00 - Hotel Clarks Amer

Rajasthan Josh and Kabir Café (Ticketed at Rs.400/- per day OR Rs.1200 for all 4 days. FREE with Delegate Registration)

Friday 20 January, 2017

09:00 - 09:45 - Front Lawns, Diggi Palace

Swanand Kirkire and Ankur Tiwari

Gates open 6:30, 7.00 -10: 00 - Hotel Clarks Amer

Bombay Bassment and Inna Modja (Ticketed at Rs.400/- per day OR Rs.1200 for all 4 days. FREE with



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Delegate Registration)

Saturday 21 January, 2017

09:00 - 09:45 - Front Lawns, Diggi Palace

Padmini Rao (FREE with General Registration)

Gates open 6:30, 7.00 - 10: 00 - Hotel Clarks Amer

Soulmate and Beth Orton & Sam Amidon (Ticketed at Rs.400/- per day OR Rs.1200 for all 4 days. FREE with Delegate Registration)

Sunday 22 January, 2017

09:00 - 09:45 - Front Lawns, Diggi Palace

Devashish Dey (FREE with General Registration)

Gates open 6:30, 7.00 -10: 00 - Hotel Clarks Amer

Lisa Hannigan, Aga Khan All Stars, Raghu Dixit (Ticketed at Rs.400/- per day OR Rs.1200 for all 4 days. FREE with Delegate Registration)

Monday 23 January, 2017

09:00 - 09:45 - Front Lawns, Diggi Palace

East Meets Middle East (FREE with General Registration)

-- ENDS --

NOTES TO MEDIA PERSONS

Information on **Registration** for the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival can be found here:

<http://jaipurliteraturefestival.org/registration/>



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For **media enquiries** on the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, please contact Edelman India:

Nitisha.Prabhakar@edelman.com / Amrita.Sarna@edelman.com

About the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2017

Described as the 'greatest literary show on Earth', the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival is the world's largest free event of its kind.

The past decade has seen the Festival host 1300 speakers and welcome nearly 1.2 million book lovers.

Celebrating writers from across the globe, past speakers have ranged from Nobel Laureates and Man Booker Prize winners to debut writers including Amish Tripathi, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Eleanor Catton, Hanif Kureishi, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Ian McEwan, J.M. Coetzee, Mohammed Hanif, Oprah Winfrey, Orhan Pamuk, Pico Iyer, Salman Rushdie, Stephen Fry, Thomas Piketty, Vikram Seth and Wole Soyinka along with renowned Indian language writers such as Girish Karnad, Gulzar, Javed Akhtar, M.T. Vasudevan Nair, Uday Prakash as well as the late Mahasweta Devi and U.R. Ananthamurthy.

Writers and Festival Directors Namita Gokhale and William Dalrymple invite speakers to take part in the five-day programme set against the backdrop of Rajasthan's stunning cultural heritage and the Diggri Palace in the state capital Jaipur.

Equity and democracy run through the Festival's veins, placing some of the world's greatest minds, humanitarians, historians, politicians, business leaders, sports people and entertainers from all walks of life together on stage. This free and egalitarian access to these renowned thinkers and writers is a powerful statement in a country where access to such individuals remains the privilege of a few. The ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival provides a potentially life-changing opportunity for audiences from Rajasthan,



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across India and the world to learn from and exchange ideas with contemporary literary stalwarts.

The ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival is a flagship event of Teamwork Arts, which produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals across more than 40 cities globally, and is produced by Sanjoy K. Roy.

In 2014, ZEE JLF spread its wings beyond the borders of India with an annual event in May in London. In 2015, it headed across the pond to Boulder, Colorado where it hosts a similar event every September.

Website: www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org

About Teamwork Arts

For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India.

In countries such as Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Israel, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA, Teamwork produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals across more than 40 cities.

Teamwork Arts produces one of the world's largest free literary gatherings, the annual **ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival**, the **Ishara International Puppet Festival** in New Delhi, the annual **Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) and Festival**, international festivals **Shared History** in South Africa, **Eye on India** in the United States of America, **India by the Bay** in Hong Kong, **Confluence- Festival of India** in Australia, and many more.

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