

SATURDAY

MAIN STAGE

Compere - Nayha - BBC Asian Network

- 12:00 **Introduction to Art Asia & Southampton Mela Festival**
- 12:15 **Rajasthan Heritage Brass Band**
Rajasthani Folk Music
- 13:00 **The Southampton Mela Festival Opening**
The Lord Mayor Of Southampton
- 13:30 **Rakhi Sood and the TMC Dancers**
Kathak Dance
- 14:05 **Papia das Baul & ensemble**
Baul songs - Folk Music tradition from West Bengal and Bangladesh
- 14:55 **Dalia Pathak and Tarangini Dance group**
Taal of Tarangini (A combination of Odissi and Semi Classical dance)
- 15:15 **Rajasthan Heritage Brass Band**
Rajasthani Folk Music
- 15:55 **Rakhi Sood and the TMC Dancers**
Bollywood Dance
- 16:30 **STRINGS Band**
Bollywood Classic popular songs
- 18:15 **Khan Brothers**
Qawwali music
- 20:00 **Bhangra music**
*Sash - Local rising singer songwriter
Happe Singh - Southampton's very own Punjabi artist
Navin Kundra - Multitalented high energy performer,
Sadi Jori - Punjabi bhangra with UK's 1st Desi Folk Duet act.*

MELA STAGE

Comperes - Preeti Nayyar and Sutapa Mukherjee

- 12:00 **K.V Dance company**
Contemporary and Theatre Jazz style Dance
- 12:20 **Mystical Fusion**
Belly Dancing Performance & Workshop
- 13:00 **Tarangini**
Odissi dance - Sthayi and Bollywood Beats
- 13:15 **Shreya Chugh**
Bollywood Dance
- 13:25 **Bitu and Sonia**
Bangladeshi Folk songs
- 13:45 **South Indian Arts and Cultural Society**
Classical and Fusion
- 14:25 **Chinese Association of Southampton**
Chinese Music and Dance
- 14:45 **Madan Vashisht**
Bollywood Songs
- 15:00 **Southampton Divas**
Pan-India dance medley featuring Marathi, Hindi, Punjabi, Malayalam, and Tamil songs
- 15:10 **Team Naatya**
Showcasing culture of Kerala
- 15:25 **Rhythm**
Indian Semi- Classical and Bollywood Dance
- 15:40 **Shree (Art Asia) and Prithvi Youth Groups**
*Students of Vidya Thirunarayan
Bharatanatyam Dance and Carnatic Music*
- 16:05 **Art Asia Students of Pooja Angra**
Harmonium, Indian Raaga music and Bollywood Songs Performance
- 16:55 **Art Asia Students - Rakhi Sood**
Bollywood and Kathak Dance Performance
- 17:30 **Rakhi Sood**
Bollywood Dance Workshop
- 17:55 **Afghan Band, Southampton**
Music from Afghanistan

WORKSHOP TENT

- 13:00 **Chinese Drumming - Michael Ng**
- 13:40 **Tabla Drumming - Iqbal Pathan**
- 14:20 **Bollywood Dance - Shreya Chug**
- 15:00 **Tabla Drumming - Iqbal Pathan**
- 15:35 **Bollywood Dance - Kanisha Mehta**

STREET PERFORMANCE AREA

- 12:30 **Circus Raj**
- 13:30 **Teabreak performance**
- 16:10 **Circus Raj**
- 17:00 **Teabreak performance**
- 18:00 **Jake's Circus**
Interactive comedy circus show

In the Arts Tent all weekend

Visit the **Arts Tent** and immerse yourself in a range of creative activities from Chinese calligraphy, rangoli and weaving to clay molding, Chinese chess & Bangladeshi folk art.



Bhangra Headliners

Sash - New local Southampton talent, a singer, songwriter and producer hits our Main Stage. Her debut track "Haseen" has surpassed over 1M YouTube views.

Happe Singh - Returning again, Happe is a talented Southampton singer songwriter who delivers powerful vocals an energetic Punjabi Bhangra Tracks. He always has the crowds dancing.

Navin Kundra - Multi-talented singer, songwriter, musician and producer. He will rock the stage with his energetic performance.

Sadi Jori - Returning with their unique blend of Punjabi Bhangra Folk Music, performing with UK's 1st Desi Folk Duet act, they feature Amar Singh Chamkila's unmistakable sound. They will have you on your feet!

SAT – 20:00 MAIN STAGE



Rakhi Sood

Rakhi Sood and the TMC dancers will light up the main stage at the Mela with a vibrant, high-energy performance that celebrates Bollywood and Kathak dance traditions. Her choreography blends tradition and contemporary flair, creating a joyful, colourful spectacle. Rakhi's dynamic presence and the dancers' dedication will make their set one of the festival's standout moments, celebrating culture, community, and creativity in full force. Off stage Rakhi Sood teaches for Art Asia, inspiring young dancers in our community.

SAT – 13:30 & 15:55 MAIN STAGE



Teabreak

Catch your breath and enjoy a free, freshly-made brew in this heartwarming show by Trigger. Have a well-deserved TEABREAK, and as you stir your cup gently glide through an audio journey of tea and how it's found itself into our pots. Tea leaves have journeyed across continents and centuries to take their place as the great comforter of our time. With tea served from Trigger's beautifully hand-painted tuk tuk, this gentle performance brings an uplifting moment of pause, uniting people across the world and throughout our lives and inviting us to rest awhile.

SAT – 13:30 & 17:00 STREET PERFORMANCE AREA



Papia das Baul

Papia is a unique performer of rare Jhumur songs from the tribal areas of Bengal. Her raw, evocative voice brings a natural and original feel to traditional music. A skilled instrumentalist, she plays the Ektara, Duggi, Dubki, and Ghungor. As a poet and lyricist, she composes original songs based on the tantric philosophy and traditions of the Bauls, preserving a cultural heritage that is becoming increasingly rare.

SAT – 14:05 MAIN STAGE



Circus Raj

A Circus Raj performance is a thrilling fusion of circus artistry, music and Rajasthani culture. Audiences are swept into a world of breathtaking aerial acts, daring crobatics, mesmerising fakir skills, giant puppets and live music, all performed with extraordinary skill and infectious energy. Bursting with colour, excitement and humour, the show is an immersive spectacle that delights audiences of all ages and transforms our Mela into an unforgettable celebration of wonder and joy.

SAT – 12:30 & 16:10 STREET PERFORMANCE AREA



Khan Brothers Qawwali

Experience the energy and emotion of a live Qawwali performance as powerful vocals, rhythmic tabla beats, hand-clapping, and harmonium melodies come together to create an unforgettable atmosphere. From soulful verses to uplifting choruses, immerse yourself in the music, tap your feet, sing along, and connect with the spirit of the performance. Rich in tradition and passion, this authentic Qawwali experience celebrates love, devotion, and unity.

We will be performing some of your favourite hits such as Allah Hoo, Dil pe zakham khaate hai, Bol kaffara and many more!

SAT – 18:15 MAIN STAGE

Welcome to Southampton Mela Festival

Welcome to Southampton Mela Festival 2026. We are incredibly proud to bring the Mela to our wonderful community. This event celebrates the richness of South Asian culture, music, and food, and belongs to every one of us. At Art Asia Trust, our mission has always been to unite people through the arts and Mela is that vision brought beautifully to life.

For more than 25 years, Art Asia has been creating unforgettable moments that bring our diverse communities together. This festival is the beating heart of that work; a joyful celebration of culture, creativity and connection. Mela is more than entertainment; it's a cultural gathering that builds bridges, sparks understanding and welcomes everyone into our extended family.

Our sincere thanks go to our brilliant board of trustees, dedicated team, passionate volunteers, inspiring artists, vibrant communities and valued sponsors and supporters: Arts Council England, Southampton City Council, Go! Southampton/Visit Southampton, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary and Mayflower Theatre.

Dahlia Jamil, Chief Executive, Art Asia

Share your festival photos, videos and selfies using #SouthamptonMela throughout the weekend. To discover more about Art Asia, find us on social media or visit artasia.org.uk.



Answer our survey! Please help us to secure funding for future Melas by giving us your feedback on this year's festival. Scan the QR code to give your feedback online. Artasia.org.uk

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Art Asia Schools & Community Workshops

Bring the magic of South Asian arts straight to your school or venue! Art Asia's expert tutors deliver vibrant, hands-on workshops in music, dance and visual arts, inspiring learners of every age, from toddlers to over-80s. We cover the whole Southern region, so wherever you are, we'd love to work with you.

Art Asia Classes

Art Asia runs a vibrant programme of weekly music and dance classes in Southampton. Classes run for 10 lessons each term, are reasonably priced and cater for adults and children.

Classes include Kathak Dance, Bollywood Dance, Bharatanatyam Dance, Indian Classical and Bollywood Singing, Carnatic Music and Harmonium.



Come and give it a try!

Quotes from students:

"My daughter and I are absolutely loving our Bollywood classes; it helps me to stay active and learn something new"

"Your lessons are such fun and inclusive of neurodivergent students and people of all walks of life"

"I've enjoyed every minute of my music learning, it brings happiness to my soul"

"We feel connected to our roots."

To find out more about workshops and classes
education@artasia.org.uk
artasia.org.uk

Book online: www.artasia.org.uk/learning-participation

Photography and Filming Notice

Please note that filming/photography is taking place Southampton Mela Festival for promotional and archival purposes. The photographs and recordings made are likely to appear on our website and social media sites. By entering the event site, you acknowledge that you may be photographed and recorded as part of such footage and its use in distribution commercial or otherwise without any payment all festival goers (including all minors) give their express consent to the use of actual or simulated likeness in connection with the production, exhibition and or advertising of any photos, film, video or audio recording of this event and or any element thereof in any media throughout the world.

Southampton Mela Festival is an eco-friendly event

Leave No Trace!

We're committed to minimising our environmental impact. All food vendors are not permitted to use single-use plastics, and recycling stations are located throughout the site. Please use the correct bins or take litter home with you.

We've also reduced our carbon footprint by using electric hookups instead of generators wherever possible. Stay hydrated at our water refill station in the centre of the site.

Thank you for being an eco-conscious festival-goer!



A big thank you!

The Art Asia team extends profound thanks to the volunteers, production crew, survey workers and the whole community who help make the Southampton Mela Festival a success.

