

COLORS OF RAJASTHAN- Music and Dances of the Desert  
Friday 23 March  
Hogg Auditorium

Rajasthan ke saaz

A musical collage showcasing folk instruments of Rajasthan. The theme of this piece is Kesaria Balama MAND. It opens with the Sarangi solo. Subsequently, other instruments play solos, duos, and trios in turn. Each segment ends with the instrumental phrase 'Padharo Mhare Des'. The number ends with all instruments playing in fast tempo as an ensemble.

Chari, the traditional welcome dance

The dancers carry brightly lit brass pots on their heads, displaying unbelievable balance and flexible body movements. The brass pot symbolizes water while the light connotes warmth- two essential elements of welcome in the desert!

Vocal, folk song Jalao Bilalo

A fast paced group song with sarangi, harmonium, khartal, and dholak accompaniment.

Mayuri dance

A colorful solo dance by Gulabo mimicking Mayuri, the female peacock. The dance is based on folk songs of dialogues between the peacock (Mayur) and the peahen (Mayuri). The pain of being separated from the beloved is captured in the call of the Mayur to its beloved Mayuri.

Pungi solo

Showcasing this unusual instrument, the pungi player plays a popular Rajasthani folk dhun. Percussion accompaniment provided by dholak and nagara.

Banjara dance

Banjaras are a nomadic tribe of Rajasthan, known for their colorful costumes and love of rhythmic dance and music. Based on a love story, this dance with fine artistic movements is performed by a couple.

Vocal, folk song Hillora Hillaary

Another group song showcasing folk melody and rhythm.

Ghoomar dance

Ghoomar means circular. The dancers in this group number dance in a circle. Starting with slow music, the tempo increases gradually, building up to the final fast pace.

## INTERMISSION

Nagara solo, Rama Kishana

The amazing Rama Kishana plays the ancient percussion instrument Nagara with sticks, mimicking the rhythmic precision of Tabla playing. Melody accompaniment provided by harmonium and sarangi.

Desert Rose dance

A Gulabo special solo. Music accompaniment by algooza, moore chung, and khartal.

Vocal, folk song Roomal

This is perhaps the most famous folk song of Rajasthan!

Holi dance

Holi, the Festival of Colors, is celebrated throughout India. But, nowhere is the celebration as colorful as in Rajasthan. The featured signature dance is typically performed in the heart of Rajasthan during Holi festival.

Vocal, sufiana folk song Dama Dum Mast Kalandar

Rajasthani folk singers have a keen interest in Sufi kalam. Rendered in the typical Qawwalii style, the sufiana Dama Dum Mast Kalandar will leave the audience asking for more.

Grand Finale, Kalbelia dance

Featuring all the dancers and musicians, this fast-paced dance will have the audience dancing in their seats. The dancers wear long black skirts embroidered with silver ribbons. Their body sways acrobatically as they spin in circles. As the drum beat increases, the tempo gets faster and faster, leaving the dancers exhausted and the viewers in absolute awe!!