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BROOKLYN RAGA MASSIVE ANNOUNCES
MONTH-LONG
RAGINI FESTIVAL FOR MARCH 2023

Exploring diasporic identity and Indo-Caribbean music, dance, art, and poetry featuring Roshni Samlal, Renluka Maharaj, Natie, Barkha Patel, Shivanee Ramlochan, LASYA and more.

Brooklyn, NY (February 22, 2023) - Brooklyn Raga Massive (BRM), the innovative collective of musicians rooted in Indian classical music, has announced the return of its highly anticipated Rāginī Festival in March 2023. The month-long festival, dedicated to showcasing a diverse range of artists who challenge systemic patriarchy in the South Asian creative ecosystem, will take place across events in venues such as Lincoln Center, The Rubin Museum, and Joe’s Pub.

The 2023 edition of Rāginī Festival offers a cross-oceanic immersion into the art of the Indies, both East and West. This year, the festival takes inspiration from the term "baithak", meaning "sitting down", which describes a type of sitting together with the intention of creating closeness between listener and performer in a communal salon or "mehfil" setting essential to South Asian classical music. The festival seeks to build threads of connection and
acknowledge rifts in diasporic identity, journeying through expressions of Surinamese baihak ghana chanting, Trinidadian Bhojpuri folk song, Queer "Coolitude" poetics, and South Asian classical music.

The festival lineup features an impressive roster of artists, including Barkha Patel, Natie, Renluka Maharaj, Lasya, Liany Mateo, Radhika Samson, Roshni Samlal, Shailesh Shankar, Satya Maraj, Pratima Doobay, DJ Cardamami, DJ offering rain, Shivanee Ramlochan, and more. These artists will turn New York’s premier venues into intimate gathering spaces for poetry, music, dance, and visual arts.

"We are thrilled to bring Rāginī Festival back to New York City in March 2023," said Roshni Samlal, tabla player, DJ, and curator of the festival. “This year's edition celebrates the diversity and complexity of diasporic identity and the connections that bind us across oceans and time. We are honored to bring together such a talented and diverse group of artists for this annual happening across the city.”

Click here for the full lineup and ticket information

Night 1 | March 8 at Branded Saloon: Rāginī Festival: Kafrine do Fé (Woman of Fire)
Night 2 | March 11 at Lincoln Center: Rāginī Festival: Mangrove Songs
Night 3 | March 21 at Joe’s Pub: Rāginī Festival: Baithak Rituals: Side A
Night 4 | March 22 at Joe’s Pub: Rāginī Festival: Baithak Rituals: Side B
Night 5 | March 24 at Rubin Museum of Art: Rāginī Festival: Trans-Indies

Featured Artists

- Natie
- Renluka Maharaj
- Pratima Doobay & Ensemble
- Roshni Samlal aka DJ Raat Ki Rani
- Liany Mateo
- Shivanee Ramlochan
- Barkha Patel
- Lasya & Ensemble
- Radhika Samson
- Chowtaal Group
- Tassa Drumming Ensemble
- DJ Cardamami
- offering rain

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About Rāginī Festival

Rāginī Festival, is a month-long festival of Brooklyn Raga Massive that explores the work of artists challenging systemic patriarchy in the South Asian creative ecosystem. Seeking to provide equitable and collaborative performance spaces, invigorate diasporic community
engagement and inclusion, heal the infliction of colonial borders, and amplify the creative voices of non-patriarchal creators, The Rāginī Festival brings together artistic and musical threads from across oceans - retracing the labyrinth of memory and cultural myth-making. The 2023 edition of Rāginī Festival offers a month-long, cross-oceanic immersion into folk, classical, and contemporary art of the Indies, both East and West. Seeking to build threads of connection and also to acknowledge rifts in diasporic identity, Rāginī Festival 2023 journeys through expressions of Surinamese baithak gana chanting, Trinidadian Bhojpuri folk song, queer “Coolitude” poetics, and South Asian classical music. Learn more about Rāginī Festival here.

EVENT LINEUP AND DETAILS

**Date:** March 8, 2023 at 7:00-11pm  
**Title:** Rāginī Festival: Kafrine do Fé (Woman of Fire)  
**Venue:** Branded Saloon (603 Vanderbilt Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11238)  
Website Listing | Ticket Link | Ticket Price: $20

Kicking off Brooklyn Raga Massive’s Rāginī Festival, violinist Natie presents a set featuring a mix of remixes and unreleased original compositions drawing inspiration from soul and world music. Hailing from Réunion Island, Natie’s music explores themes of identity, self-love, and transcendence through enchanting layers of violin, voice, and drum machine she loops live in hypnotic solo sets. Natie will be joined by special guests for this performance which will be followed by Brooklyn Raga Massive’s signature jam session from 9:00-11:00pm.

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**Date:** March 11, 2023 at 7:30pm  
**Title:** Rāginī Festival: Mangrove Songs  
**Venue:** David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center (61 W 62nd St, New York, NY 10023)  
Website Listing | Venue Listing | Ticket Price: FREE

Mangrove Songs is an evening dedicated to illuminating the plurality of the South Asian diaspora and the artistic strains of ‘Coolitude’. ‘Coolitude’, a term coined by poet and semiologist Khal Torabully, draws from multiple mythologies and histories that reconcile the complex nature of Indo-Caribbean identity, among other descendants of the post-colonial subcontinent. In Mangrove Songs, themes of nostalgia, separation, and communal memory will be explored in a collaboration between singer Pratima Doobay and drummer Roshni Samlal exploring matrilineal Bhojpuri and Hindi folk songs, the poetry of Shivanee Ramlochan, bass riffs by Liany Mateo, and the visual works of artist Renluka Maharaj. The concert will be followed by a dance party led by Roshni Samlal aka DJ Raat ki Rani.

**Featured Artists**  
Renluka Maharaj, visual arts  
Pratima Doobay & Ensemble, vocals  
Roshni Samlal, tabla + DJ set  
Liany Mateo, bass
Shivanee Ramlochan, poetry

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**Date:** March 21, 2023 @ 7pm  
**Title:** Rāginī Festival: Baithak Rituals Side A  
**Venue:** Joe’s Pub (425 Lafayette St, New York, NY 10003)  
**Website Listing | Ticket Link | Ticket Price:** $30

Side A of Ragini Festival at Joe’s Pub (Baithak Rituals) takes inspiration from the Baithak tradition of an intimate “sitting together”, in musical exchange, thought and performance. This type of cultural gathering, akin to a ‘mehfil’, within South Asian classical music creates a musical crucible, where the synergy of the audience feeds into and supports the creativity of the performer in close proximity. This first night of Baithak Rituals will feature kathak dancer Barkha Patel, ambient soundscapes and rhythms from bansuri flute player LASYA, and an Indian classical music set featuring Radhika Samson playing the rare bass sitar-like instrument the surbahar in a meditative set representing the Dhrupadi ang, one of the oldest known forms of Indian music.

**Featured Artists**  
Barkha Patel (Kathak dance)  
Lasya & Ensemble (bansuri)  
Radhika Samson (Indian Classical Surbahar)

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**Date:** March 22, 2023 @ 7pm  
**Title:** Rāginī Festival: Baithak Rituals Side B  
**Venue:** Joe’s Pub (425 Lafayette St, New York, NY 10003)  
**Website Listing | Ticket Link | Ticket Price:** $30

Side B of Baithak Rituals presents a second diasporic interpretation of the term “baithak” as in “Baithak gana”, a term which has come to define “local classical” Indo-Caribbean folk singing that traveled ancestrally to the West Indies. Originating in Suriname, its contemporary meaning defines a social gathering and a song form that includes Bhojpuri folk songs, “local Caribbean classical” music, and chutney music - styles that will be explored in this evening’s lineup featuring tassa drumming with Satya Maraj and his ensemble, chowtaal folks songs with Shailesh Shankar, and a tabla set by Roshni Samlal featuring spoken word and historical sound footage.

**Featured Artists**  
Roshni Samlal (Tabla set, vocals, historical sound footage)  
Chowtaal Group (Shailesh Shankar and ensemble)  
Tassa Drumming Ensemble (Satya Maraj and Ensemble)
Date: March 24, 2023 at 6-10pm
Title: Rāginī Festival: Trans-Indies
Venue: Rubin Museum of Art (150 W 17th St, New York, NY 10011)
Website Listing | Venue Listing | Ticket Price: FREE

Brooklyn Raga Massive’s Rāginī Festival teams up with the Rubin Museum’s K2 Lounge to explore the theme of “Life After” though a joyful, musical lens. Seeking to invigorate diasporic community engagement and inclusion, heal the infliction of colonial borders, and amplify the creative voices of non-patriarchal creators, The Rāginī Festival brings together artistic and musical threads from across oceans - retracing the labyrinth of memory and cultural myth-making. Life After colonialism revealed a fractured South Asian identity which has informed post-colonial identity politics of the Indo-Caribbean, Fiji, Mauritius, and more. Representing Rāginī Festival's curatorial mission to explore music that both captures folk and traditional art born out of the migrations of the diaspora, DJ Cardamami (Anisa Jackson), DJ Raat ki Rani (Roshni Samlal), and DJ offering rain (melika davé) will transport you into a trans-indies experience.

Featured Artists
DJ Cardamami (Anisa Jackson)
DJ Raat Ki Rani (Roshni Samlal)
offering rain (melika davé)

About Brooklyn Raga Massive
Brooklyn Raga Massive is an adventurous nonprofit musicians' collective that creates cross-cultural understanding through the lens of South Asian classical music by providing direct support to artists, fostering collaboration through our iconic concerts and jam sessions, facilitating cultural exchange through educational initiatives, and producing transcendent, and often massive, performances, festivals, and one-of-a-kind albums. BRM envisions a world where the values of openness, generosity, humility, and equal respect for tradition and innovation transcend differences and unite artists and audiences in Brooklyn and beyond. www.brooklynragamassive.org

Website | Instagram | Facebook

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