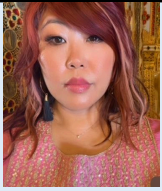


**THE HIMALAYAN FAIR 2026
ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE**

Saturday, May 16th, 2026 (timings are subject to change)



10:00 am Welcome by Prayern-The Himalayan Fair Committee Member Emcee & Blessing by Monks from Sera Jey Monastery



Sera Jey Monastery follows its centuries-old tradition and culture dating back to Tibet, without much significant change. As such, the Monastery continues to exist in typical Tibetan Gelugpa monastic tradition to this day. Sera Jey Monastery is recognized as one of the biggest and premier monastic institutes of learning traditional Tibetan Buddhism with over 4800 monks. The monastic curriculum and activities for such a vast number of pupils requires funding on a regular basis. Your support would be greatly appreciated. <https://serajeyfoundation.org/>

10:45 am The Art of Living Foundation



The **Art of Living Foundation** is a global, non-profit, educational, and humanitarian organization founded in 1981 by spiritual leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. Rooted in the philosophy that inner peace is the key to world peace, the foundation offers a wide array of programs that blend ancient wisdom with practical techniques for stress relief, personal development, and community service. Its signature breathing technique, Sudarshan Kriya, lies at the heart of its initiatives, which span more than 180 countries and have impacted over 500 million people. Through wellness workshops, youth empowerment, disaster relief, and peace-building efforts, the Art of Living seeks to create a stress-free, violence-free world.

11:15 am Mongolian Dance Group Amuunaa's Dance Studio Preserving Mongolian Heritage Through the Art of Dance



Amuunaa's Dance, founded in 2023, is a Mongolian dance group dedicated to preserving and passing on cultural traditions to younger generations. The group includes about 20 children who actively learn and perform traditional dances.

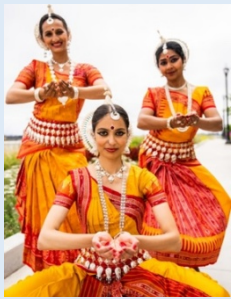
Founder Amuunaa Zulkhuu has been passionate about dance since 2009 and has spent over a decade performing at Bay Area cultural events, sharing Mongolian heritage with diverse audiences. Her guiding belief: *"Dance is a vital movement of life—through it, we preserve our heritage and live a vibrant life."* The group also promotes cultural awareness and inclusivity, encouraging children to respect traditions and take pride in their roots. Amuunaa's Dance is supported by the Mongolian Community Association of the Bay Area (BAMCA), with whom it collaborates to celebrate Mongolian art and culture.



11:30 am Sarang Teens (Nepali Sarangi and Madal)

Sarang Teens -Music is the universal language of emotion—a powerful force that transcends words, cultures, and boundaries. It can lift spirits, heal hearts, spark memories, and bring people together. “SarangTeens” Milan 17, Logan 15, Taran 14, blending cultures playing their unique Sarangi and Madal, turning silence into something beautifully alive! Thanks to Kiran Nepali for taking the boys under his wings. We hope they create more music together and have fun with it!!

11:45 pm Odissi Dance by Odissi Vilas Dance Troupe



Odissi Vilas Dance Troupe, is a San Francisco Bay Area collective founded in 2005 by Guru Sri Vishnu Tattva Das, that seeks to promote, educate, and delight audiences with the beauty, grace, and spirituality of Odissi dance. Originating in the temples of Odisha in South-Eastern India, this highly sculptural and devotional dance style, is one of the oldest surviving dance forms of India.

Website: www.odissivilas.org

12:00 pm Center for Empowering Refugees & Immigrants - Traditional Nepali Maruni Dance



CERI Nepali Cultural Dance— Traditional Nepali Maruni Dance. The CERI Nepali Cultural Dance Group is dedicated to preserving and showcasing traditional Nepali dance, with a special focus on the Maruni style. Maruni dance, one of Nepal’s most vibrant and expressive art forms, holds deep cultural and historical significance. However, in recent years, it has gradually become less prominent among the younger generation.

Based within the CERI community, this group actively participates in cultural events, community programs, and festivals, sharing the beauty of Nepali traditions with diverse audiences. With their performances, they strive to honor their roots while building a meaningful bridge between generations and cultures. Through regular practice, collaboration, and performances, the dancers not only develop their artistic skills but also build confidence, leadership, and a strong sense of belonging—helping keep the spirit of cultural dance alive for future generations.

Website: <https://www.cerieastbay.org/>

12:15 pm Nepali Dance by Laliguras Dance Team



Laliguras Dance Team is the Bay Area's new Nepali dance team! We're excited to bring the vibrant energy of Nepali dance to the local community. Let's dance, celebrate, and connect with others who share a love for Nepali culture

12:30 pm Nepali Dance by Nepal Beats Dance Group



Nepali Beats was born to promote love for Nepali Culture through dance. Sapana Sharma the Instructor, believes that dance is very close to magic as it lets you visualize music. Through Nepali Beats she teaches how to dance to the magic of Nepali music. Today the girls will be performing a dance from Pokhara Region about how guests are cherished in Nepali Culture. The group will be expressing how grateful they are to have you here at the Fair as guests and making this gathering a celebration of connection and togetherness. Sapana Sharma Instagram [@dancewithsapana](#)

12:45 pm Carnatic and Hindustani music by Krishna Parthasarathy and Friends



Krishna Parthasarathy Leaving a career as an attorney, Krishna became a musician at the age of 30. For the last 12 years he has been practicing and performing devotional music in the Carnatic and Hindustani styles vocally and also on violin. He is a student of Padma Bhushan KJ Yesudas and Padma Bhushan Smt. N Rajam. He is joined with his friends today to present some devotional hymns from both India and Nepal in various languages. Please sing along.

1:45 pm NOANCC Dhime Khala- Traditional Newari Ensemble (Nepal)



NOANCC Dhime Khala A 15-member traditional Newa percussion ensemble based in the San Francisco Bay Area, carrying the thunderous rhythm of Nepal's Kathmandu Valley to California **stages**. NOANCC Dhime Khala is the cultural music wing of the Newa Organization of America, Northern California Chapter. Formed in 2025, the group was assembled to bring the unmistakable pulse of the dhime baja — the cylindrical double-headed drum at the heart of Newa ceremonial life —

into community gatherings, temple functions, and public festivals across the Bay Area.

MENTOR & ARTISTIC LEAD — AMIR RAJ MAHARJA -*Founding mentor · Lead dhime · 50 years of dhime performance · Kathmandu · Bay Area*

A lifelong dhime player with five decades behind the drum, Amir Raj Maharjan carries the rhythmic vocabulary of Kathmandu's Jyapu tradition directly into the ensemble. He teaches the foundational Dewa Taal that opens every performance, and has shaped NOANCC Dhime Khala's repertoire through weekly practice sessions since the group's founding — a patient, ear-first apprenticeship in the old way.

REPERTOIRE & OCCASIONS- Dewa Taal — Opening invocation beat • Processional gait — Jatra & chariot marches Indra Jatra sequences — Festival of the rains • Mha Puja rhythms — Nepal Sambat new year Wedding welcomes — Reception & bride's arrival • Temple processions - Puja & deity jatras

WHAT IS DHIME? A **large** A large cylindrical double-headed drum, 40–50 inches across and 17–21 inches long, built of hollowed wood or brass and faced with goatskin. The left head — treated with a red tuning paste called mankhah — is struck by hand; the right is played with a curved cane stick. Its deep, carrying rumble has marked Newa ceremony since at least the Lichhavi period.

2:15 pm Tibetan Secret Dance (Shanak) by Tsering Bawa



Tsering Dorjee (aka Tsering Bawa) has been a Tibetan music and arts performer for more than three decades. Tsering gained a Master's degree in Tibetan Performing Arts in 2000 at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA), Dharamsala, India, where he was privileged to study under some of the most legendary Tibetan artists of our time. At TIPA, Tsering studied Tibetan secular dance and music, first as a student and then as an instructor. Now he has become a master of Tibetan Opera involving all kinds of Tibetan folk Dance and Cham,

(secret dance) a series of colorful, masked, ritual dances performed at major Tibetan festivals. Tsering is also an award-winning actor having both film and theater credits. In 2022-23, Tsering appeared in the first ever Tibetan international theater play, Pah-Lak, by Abhishek Majumdar. Tsering toured Europe as the lead actor in Pah-Lak at the International Theatre Festival in Ruhrfestspiele, Recklinghausen. Since 2007, Tsering has established a community school program of Tibetan language, music and dance for the new generations of Tibetan children in the Bay Area to help preserve Tibet's traditions of music and art in exile.

<https://tibetartstudio.com/tsering-bawa/>

3:00 pm Bhangra Dance by Dhol Rhythms Dance Company



Dhol Rhythms Dance Company is an organization dedicated to promoting the artistic and cultural heritage of India by sharing rhythms of Punjab through classes, workshops, performances and events. Since its inception in 2003, Dhol Rhythms has grown into a boundless and unique platform for people of diverse backgrounds to come together, express themselves, and dance in a non-competitive and positive environment. The diverse group of women who are part of the group have become one of the most talked about in the San Francisco Bay Area. Led by co-founder Vicki Virk's Punjabi heritage, Dhol Rhythms highlights the ancestral and ethnic roots of the Punjabi folk dances while pushing boundaries with contemporary influences. Celebrating 20 years, they will host the award-winning Non-Stop Bhangra event voted "Best Dance Party" in San Francisco. <https://dholrhythms.com/>

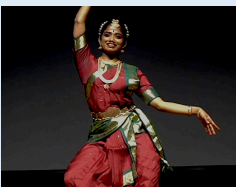
3:45 PM- Raffle

4:15 pm Odissi Dance by Jyoti Kala Mandir



Jyoti Kala Mandir, established in 1993, is a non-profit organization founded by Guru Jyoti Rout, who studied Odissi and received a Master's degree in Odissi from Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, University for Music and Dance, Bhubaneswar, India. She then went on to study vocal music and Chau Dance. The organization is dedicated to preserving and promoting India's vibrant classical music and dance by training students in music and dance. It also conducts mega events like dance and music festivals, workshops, seminars, dance recitals by eminent artists. A decade ago, Guru established a branch of Jyoti Kala in Bhubaneswar offering the gift of her pedagogy back to her motherland. <http://www.jyotikalamandir.org/>

4:50 Soujanya Ponnappali- Kuchipudi Dance



Soujanya Ponnappali is a Kuchipudi dancer and postdoctoral scholar at UC Berkeley. She began her dance journey at the age of four. After a decade of learning and performing this traditional art form, which has its origins in Southern India, she took a few years away to pursue her PhD in Computer Science. Soujanya returned to dance three years ago with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper appreciation for the strong sense of identity and humility that Kuchipudi brings her. She now dances with a desire to connect with her true self. Soujanya also fosters a vibrant Kuchipudi community in the Bay Area and across the U.S., paying forward the support she has received from her family, gurus, peers, and friends. She regularly organizes Kuchipudi meetups. Please feel free to reach out to her for more details. Today, she will be performing *Koluvaithiva Ranga Sai*, a devotional and expressive piece that describes the beauty of Lord Ranganatha, expressing that *"even a thousand eyes cannot describe His beauty"*. Composed by Shri Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam, this piece is set in Raagam Ramapriya and Adi Talam. **Guru:** Shri Sai Venkata Gangadhar **School:** Nishrinkala Dance Academy

5:00 pm Pakistani and Indian Music by Sukhawat Ali Khan



Sukhawat Ali Khan, son of Indian-Pakistani vocalist Ustad Salamat Ali Khan is a classical singer of Sham Chaurasia Gharana. He also performs North Indian and Pakistani classical music and related folk music. He began singing and playing the harmonium at age seven and has performed around the world. He says: "Each song I do has classical thought behind it. I spent time in New York. I go to clubs. I like the hip hop beat, Latin music, rave. ... There's a performing energy there that I also feel. It's the same kind of energy a good Qawali singer has, and we can really express it freely in merica." <https://www.facebook.com/sukhawatalikhan/>

6:15 pm Tibetan Bell Experience by Karma Moffett



Karma Moffett has sifted through thousands of Tibetan bowls over a period of fifty years to accumulate his scale. They were selected for their purity and clarity of sound, sustained resonance, and harmonic blending or pairing with the other bowls within the set. The varying thickness of the metals produces a variety of tones and harmonics, within each bowl. Karma's mastery of circular breathing allows him to bring the pure tones of each instrument to the listener in an unbroken stream of sound. The audience easily relaxes into a natural state of meditation.

Sunday, May 17th, 2026 (timings are subject to change)



10:00 am Welcome by Prayerna (The Himalayan Fair Committee Member), Emcee & Blessing by Monks from Sera Jey Monastery



Sera Jey Monastery follows its centuries-old tradition and culture dating back to Tibet, without much significant change. As such, the Monastery continues to exist in typical Tibetan Gelugpa monastic tradition to this day. Sera Jey Monastery is recognized as one of the biggest and premier monastic institutes of learning traditional Tibetan Buddhism with over 4800 monks. The monastic curriculum and activities for such a vast number of pupils requires funding on a regular basis. Your support would be greatly appreciated. <https://serajeyfoundation.org/>

10:45 am Divine Star Energy Healing (Singing Bowl)



Minu Thapa is a certified singing bowl healer, though I like to call myself an enthusiast for now, because I'm still exploring, learning, and growing. I began this journey in mid-2025, and recently had the opportunity to travel to Nepal where I deepened my understanding of Tibetan singing bowls. I am passionate about sound healing and want to start a movement singing bowl for mental health. I truly believe that

everyone can benefit from taking time to relax the mind and body, and reconnect with themselves. In addition, I am a certified Reiki Master, and I also practice breathwork, yoga, meditation, and have an interest in Tai Chi. Professionally, I work as a Human Resources Specialist, which allows me to support people in a different, yet meaningful way.

11:00 am Hindustani Classical Music by Teed Rockwell accompanied by Daniel Berkman



Teed Rockwell plays Hindustani classical music on a newly customized instrument he calls the touchstyle veena, which has a guitar-like fretboard played by tapping the strings simultaneously with both hands. He has had over a hundred classes in Hindustani Classical Music with Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, and also studied extensively with Ustad Shahid Parvez, Pandit Habib Khan, Debashish Bhattacharya and Ustad Salamat Ali Khan. In the late 1950s, Ravi Shankar and Ali Akbar Khan created a musical form called *Jugalbandi* in which two melody instruments perform together in interactive conversation. On a touchstyle veena, one musician is able to play *jugalbandi* by himself. Teed is the only person to ever perform *Jugalbandi* by himself.

Daniel Berkman is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, accompanist, electronic musician, producer, film and dance score composer and innovator of electro-acoustic music. He has composed and performed music for theater and ballet companies and recorded numerous albums. At the Himalayan Fair, he will be accompanying Teed Rockwell's Touchstyle Vina on Handsonic electronic percussion.

12:00 pm Madhabika Nayak- Hindustani Devotional Vocal



Madhabika Nayak was born and raised in New Delhi, India. She studied at Mater Dei School and Lady Shri Ram College where she was active in performing music at school and college competitions and festivals. She moved to the United States for her graduate studies in Psychology in 1988 and currently lives and works in the United States. A Clinical Psychologist and public health research scientist by profession, Madhabika nursed a love for music from a very young age. As a teenager, she trained for 7 years in Hindustani (North Indian classical) vocal in the

Gwalior gharana tradition under the guidance of Pandit Ram Chandra Keshav Moghe. The late Pandit Moghe was a disciple of the famed Pandit Balakrishna Rao Ashtekar of Gwalior, who was fondly known as 'Raja Bhaiyya Poonchwale'. Madhabika trained for a few months in Odissi classical music as a young child under veteran vocalist and Sangeet Natak Academy awardee Acharya Bankim Sethi, a disciple of "Suramani" Balakrusna Das. She has continued her training in Odissi music with Acharya Sethi since the end of 2023.

Madhabika Nayak is an accomplished singer, gifted with a mellifluous voice. Her music is imbued with technical precision as well as spirituality. She has performed in Delhi, Kuwait, and several parts of the United States. She takes great pride in the classical and traditional forms of music of Odisha. Madhabika has never missed an opportunity to sing in Odia to larger non-Odia and non-Indian audiences, be it a "janaana," Odissi, Geeta Govinda, or simple bhajan. As an artist, she is mindful of her responsibility to further a true appreciation of Odisha's myriad art forms and wants to spread awareness of the classical music of Odisha.

Online links: <https://www.youtube.com/c/MadhabikaSings>

Live performance link: Odissi Classical — <https://youtu.be/rUoLnc2M21U> (see from 24:33 timestamp for Odissi vocal)

12:45 pm Children Dances and Songs from TANC



Tibetan children from the **Tibetan Association of Northern California (TANC)** Sunday school program will be performing traditional dances and songs. TANC is a 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization that works to preserve the unique cultural heritage of Tibet and to disseminate information on

Tibet. www.tanc.org

1:00 pm Ushanjali School of Dance



© Anupama Ramachandran

Ushanjali School of Dance is a premier South Indian Classical Dance Academy in the Tri Valley area, with locations in San Ramon, Pleasanton and right here in Berkeley where she offers classes on Sunday mornings. Students are trained in the Mysore Style of Bharatanatyam by the Artistic Director, Vidushi Naina Shastri. They are also trained in other styles of dance like Indian Folk,

Semi-classical and Contemporary. Students of Ushanjali School of Dance have been featured in NBC Bay Area's program, "Asian Pacific America" and regularly perform at various Community and City organized events. Naina Shastri, has been an Artist-in-Residence at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, RAW resident artist at SAFEhouse for the Arts, San Francisco and is the Chair of San Ramon City's Arts Advisory Committee.



<http://www.ushanjali.com>

1:45 pm Mongolian Dance Group Amuunaa's Dance Studio Preserving Mongolian Heritage Through the Art of Dance



Amuunaa's Dance is a traditional Mongolian dance group founded in 2023 with the mission of teaching and passing on Mongolia's rich cultural traditions to the younger generation. Currently, the group consists of about 20 children who are actively learning and performing traditional dances.

The founder, dance teacher, Amuunaa Zulkhuu, has been deeply passionate about dance since childhood. She began her journey in 2009 and has since spent over a decade performing in the Bay Area communities' cultural celebrations. Through numerous concerts and cultural events, she has continually shared and promoted Mongolian heritage with diverse audiences.

2:00 pm Leela Youth Dance Company, a Kathak dance performing ensemble



Leela Youth Dance Company (LYDC) is an audition-based, pre-professional performing group under the artistic direction of Kathak artist and educator, Rukhmani Mehta. The program champions excellence in Kathak, classical dance of North India and serves as a platform for youth leadership development. Through world-class training and mentorship, the program empowers teens to develop their own voices and become advocates and ambassadors for

Indian classical art and culture within their communities and in the world. LYDC has performed nationally in numerous prestigious festivals and venues including WorldWideWomen's Girl's Festival, San Francisco Museum of Modern Arts, Philadelphia Youth Festival, LA County's Annual Holiday Celebration, and more. Leela Youth Dance Company is a program of The Leela Institute, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

2:10 pm Instrumental Classical Music of India/Pakistan Ferhan Qureshi (tabla & Sonia Mann Qureshi (Kathak)



Ferhan Najeeb Qureshi is a senior disciple of the legendary tabla master Ustad Tari Khan. He has performed alongside many distinguished instrumentalists, vocalists and dancers in the United States and Pakistan. Ferhan has been performing regularly at the Himalayan Fair for 25 years.

Sonia Mann Qureshi has studied the Lucknow gharana of Kathak from the Tarangini School of Dance under Shrimati Anuradha Nag, a disciple of the legendary Pandit Birju Maharaj. Sonia has performed at the Himalayan Fair several times in the past. This is Ferhan and Sonia's first time performing together at the fair and they have invited special guest artists to accompany them.

2:45 pm World Fusion Music by Ancient Future



Ancient Future as a world fusion collective with many musicians from different cultures performing in different ensemble configurations. This performance celebrates the release of their 8th album, Purple Spirits, an album of tributes to musical giants such as Ustad Zakir Hussain. Ancient

Future has performed almost every year at the Himalayan Fair starting with year two! This performance features Matthew Montfort, Mariah Parker, and Ferhan Qureshi.

Ancient Future leader Matthew Montfort is a pioneer of the scalloped fretboard guitar, an instrument combining qualities of the South Indian vina and the steel string guitar. Based on his originality, innovation, technique, and influence on guitarists over the years, he is recognized as one of the world's 100 Greatest Acoustic Guitarists by DigitalDreamDoor.com

Mariah Parker has been playing music from the time she could reach the keys on the piano and is known for her work on hammered dulcimer and santur (its Persian cousin). While studying at UC Santa Cruz, she worked with drummer Mickey Hart on his Planet Drum project. She has toured with Ancient Future in the US and Spain, and released three records on Ancient-Future.Com Records.

Ferhan Qureshi has been performing with Ancient Future since he performed a duet with Matthew Montfort at the Himalayan Fair in 2009.

Matthew Montfort — <https://www.ancient-future.com/matt.html> Mariah Parker —

<https://www.ancient-future.com/mariah.html> Ferhan Najeeb Qureshi —

<https://www.ancient-future.com/ferhan.html>

Grand Prize Raffle Drawing & Acknowledgements
Himalayan Fair Founder
Time: 3:30 pm

4:00 to 5:00 pm Pakistani and Indian Music by Sukhawat Ali Khan



Sukhawat Ali Khan, son of Indian-Pakistani vocalist Ustad Salamat Ali Khan and nephew of Nazakat Ali Khan, is a classical singer of Sham Chaurasia Gharana. He also performs North Indian and Pakistani classical music and related folk music. He began singing and playing the harmonium at age seven and has performed around the world. He says: “Each song I do has classical thought behind it and I know how to sing it properly, but my style comes from my life, too. I spent time in New York. I go to clubs. I like the hip hop beat,

Latin music, rave. ... There's a performing energy there that I also feel. It's the same kind of energy a good Qawali singer has, and we can really express it freely in

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