

SUNY New Paltz Department of Music Presents



Music Without Borders

GAMELAN CONCERT

Shepard Recital Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 20

7:30 p.m.

— Program —

Distant Roots and Local Flowers: music from Java, Bali, and home

PROGRAM

Clouds. Jody Diamond (world premiere)

Ladrang Eling-Eling laras slendro pathet manyura (Central Java)

Bonang. Jody Diamond

Experiential Encore I

Playing with Wayan Suweca. Video and gender wayang. Gavin Ryan (Bali)

Capung Gantung [Hovering Dragonfly]. Bali: Gamelan Angklung

Selisir. Bali: Gamelan Angklung

Kecak. (arrangement by I Wayan Sadra)

Experiential Encore II

Experiential Encores, created in 2023, are a second version of a piece performed with audience participation.

PLAYERS

Director: Jody Diamond

Guest Musicians: Gavin Ryan, Sasha Bogdanowitz

Players: Charlene Benten, John Chimbo, Bennet Cohen, Dylan Diallo, Carson Haun, Brian Jablowsky, Colin Tubbs

GAMELAN CLASS! The gamelan ensemble is offered as Music 140: Southeast Asian Ensembles, every Fall semester at SUNY New Paltz; musicians and composers are welcome, although no musical experience is required. Contact diamondj5@newpaltz.edu if you are interested. For many students, the gamelan turns out to be their favorite class!

NOTES

The musical ensemble known as “gamelan” originates in the Indonesian islands of Java and Bali. From royal courts and Hindu temples to conservatories and world stages, the gamelan—often combined with the arts of dance and theater—has become well known. There are over 200 gamelan groups in the United States, found in universities, schools, and community organizations. Forty other countries have joined in, collaborating with Indonesian and international artists to explore both classic repertoire and experimental inspirations.

The gamelan at SUNY New Paltz was built by the American composer Lou Harrison (1917–2003) with his partner William Colvig. The full ensemble bears the name “Gamelan Si Betty” in honor of Los Angeles art patron Betty Freeman, who sponsored its construction. Si Betty was bequeathed to Jody Diamond, who was Lou Harrison’s gamelan teacher and orchestrator for 25 years. Ms. Diamond, a gamelan composer and scholar, has been at SUNY since 2019, teaching music and anthropology.

Gamelan music consists of fixed and flexible elements. The minimal notation outlines only a melodic and metric framework. There is no visual conductor; the drums are the “leader of time,” and the players listen carefully to each other for cues.

Studying gamelan involves good news and a challenge. The good news is that some of the instruments are easy to start, so you are playing real music from the very first day. The challenge is that a fully trained gamelan player has mastered all the instruments; internally the entire gamelan is playing, externally the musician will play one of those parts in relationship to the whole. Interested in learning? The newest local group is Gamelan Kingston (gamelankingston.org), which welcomes new members.

Please visit www.newpaltz.edu/fpa/music to view our upcoming Concert Series events. Enjoy the show!

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