

Department of Music Presents

# MUSIC

*The Universal Connection*

**GAMELAN  
MUSIC FROM  
INDONESIA &  
AMERICA**

**Shepard Recital Hall**

*Thursday, December 1*

*7:30 p.m.*

# GAMELAN MUSIC FROM INDONESIA & AMERICA

## **Here and There**

A concert of gamelan music from Central Java and the U.S. with Gamelan Si Betty, directed by Jody Diamond, with students of MUS 140: Southeast Asian Music Ensemble. [1] SUNY New Paltz, 1 December 2022, Shepard Hall, 7:30.

## **What is a gamelan?**

A gamelan is a multi-timbral ensemble originating in the Indonesian islands of Java and Bali, which is also studied and performed in 30 other countries around the world. [2]

# Program

## PROGRAM

### **BAHASAS.**

A video composition created in collaboration with 18 Indonesian artists, each singing in one of the 800 hundred regional languages found in the 13,000 islands of the Indonesian archipelago. [3] Diamond.

### ***Ladrang Eling-Eling laras slendro pathet manyura.***

In classical Javanese music, some forms are defined by how many beats there are in each gong cycle; a ladrang has 32. This has a melody that uses notes between those of the gamelan. Flute: Katie Down; transcription by Benjamin Cherry. Central Java.

### ***Relaxing at the Piano.***

Goode. Piano: Krista DiMaggio

### ***Number Measure Increase Downward (gamelan)***

An additive counting piece. Corner.

### ***Number Measure Increase Downward (piano)***

Another arrangement.

### ***Lancaran Jangkrik Genggong laras slendro pathet sanga***

With interlocking parts. Central Java.

### ***Bubaran Udan Mas laras slendro pathet nem***

Traditional concert-ending piece. Central Java.

### ***Anyone Can Play***

An accumulative group improvisation. Diamond.

# Program

## COMPOSERS

Philip Corner (1933–), a founding Fluxus composer (1961) currently living in Italy, is also a founder of Gamelan Son of Lion in NYC, an American composers' ensemble.

Jody Diamond (1953–), a composer, scholar, writer, and publisher; director of the American Gamelan Institute and co-founder of Frog Peak Music (a composer's collective). [4]

Daniel Goode (1936–). a well-known experimental composer in the downtown New York scene, and also a co-founder of Gamelan Son of Lion.

Central Java, where classical gamelan music as a court tradition was established by the 8th century. The pieces on this concert were taught to Jody Diamond by Javanese composers, including KPH Notonegoro ("Pak Cokro") and I.M. Harjito of Wesleyan University.

---

## Musicians

*Cherian Abraham*

*Nikolas Ayala*

*Benjamin Cherry*

*Krista DiMaggio*

*Luka Giacalone*

*Yukiko Ikkaku*

*Jillian Lahood*

# Notes

1. Music 140 is an ensemble course offered in the Music Department of SUNY New Paltz once a year; the next group begins in the Fall of 2023. If you are interested in participating, or on working on a collaborative project, contact [jody.diamond@gamelan.org](mailto:jody.diamond@gamelan.org).
2. Gamelan is often translated as “orchestra,” but there are many significant differences. A gamelan is a set of instruments, built together in a tuning chosen by the gamelan maker. Musicians do not own their instruments or take them home. Instead of playing instruments to showcase their individual talents, the musicians come together so the unique sonic character of the gamelan may be heard in the world. Each gamelan has a name, often a poetic image like “Lake of Honey,” or “Victorious Thunder.” The gamelan at SUNY New Paltz was built by the American composer Lou Harrison (1917–2003) with his partner William Colvig, and bears the name “Gamelan Si Betty” in honor of Los Angeles art patron Betty Freeman. It was bequeathed to Jody Diamond, Harrison’s gamelan teacher for over 25 years. Notation is not used by the musicians. Javanese gamelan music consists of fixed and flexible elements. The minimal notation outlines only a melodic and metric framework, with most of the musicians realizing their parts in real time during the performance. There is no visual conductor, but two leaders: the drums are the leader of time, and the instrument that plays the introduction is the leader of the melody.
3. There are over 800 languages spoken in Indonesia according to the 2010 census. Other sources consider several of these to be dialects of the same language, and show the number of unique languages being closer to 700. By all estimates, Indonesia is one of the most linguistically diverse countries in the world. Indonesian (locally referred to as Bahasa Indonesia) is the primary lingua franca. Indonesian is spoken by over 94% of the population, but it is the primary language of

# *Notes*

only 20% of the population. Javanese (Jawa) is the most common primary language, spoken by over 30% of the population. The maps, documents, and datasets below provide information about languages spoken throughout the country. (from Translators Without Borders)

4. American Gamelan Institute, founded in 1981, and Frog Peak Music (a composers' collective), co-founded with Larry Polansky in 1984.

Please visit [newpaltz.edu/music/concert-series](http://newpaltz.edu/music/concert-series) to view our upcoming Concert Series events. Enjoy the show!

**Your generous contributions support Department of Music programs.**

Make your tax-deductible gift today at [newpaltz.edu/gift](http://newpaltz.edu/gift), or send your check, made payable to the SUNY New Paltz Foundation and marked for Music to:

SUNY New Paltz Foundation  
1 Hawk Drive  
New Paltz, NY 12561

