

Department of Music Presents

A Season of
Renewal

GAMELAN MUSIC FROM
INDONESIA AND AMERICA

Shepard Recital Hall

Tuesday, November 23
7:30 p.m.



P R O G R A M

The Department of Music at the State University of New York at New Paltz proudly presents

Gamelan Si Betty

Jody Diamond, director

Gamelan is a multi-timbral melodic percussion ensemble, originating in the Indonesian islands of Java and Bali. Gamelan groups study and perform in 25 other countries as well, presenting an international repertoire of classical and new music. The music has both fixed and flexible elements: some parts notated, and others realized by the players as they interact during the performance.

Although sometimes called an orchestra, “gamelan” means the set of instruments rather than the group of people. Each gamelan has its own tuning, chosen by the builder; the players come to the gamelan to sound the unique voice of each set. Gamelan Si Betty, named for the Los Angeles arts patron Betty Freeman, was designed and built by the American composer Lou Harrison and his partner William Colvig. Jody Diamond was Harrison’s gamelan teacher and orchestrator for 25 years; the gamelan was bequeathed to her.

This is the first performance by this new ensemble at SUNY New Paltz. The students are from the departments of Music and Asian Studies. The ensemble is open to all, regardless of previous musical experience; composers are welcome. For information on joining next term, contact diamondj5@newpaltz.edu.



PROGRAM

Prelude: Anyone Can Play

Jody Diamond

Sekar Sandat (Sandalwood Flower)

Balinese, from a transcription
by Andy Channing

Philemon and Baukis

Lou Harrison
Alex Shiozaki, violin

Gamelan Demonstration

Ensemble

Open Workshop

Audience

MUSICIANS

Kael De Berry, Jody Diamond, Jillian Lahood, Lucas Lynch,
Alexander Macdonald, Alexa Porco, Logan Schoen, Alex
Shiozaki, and Kai Yamane



The gamelan ensemble course—MUS140 SE Asian Gong Ensemble—is open to new students each semester.

STUDENT COMMENTS

I really enjoy gamelan because it's something that doesn't require experience, anyone can be capable of learning it! It's really amazing that with the layering of note patterns on various instruments, such a beautiful sound can be created! I also feel that playing gamelan can come with such valuable lessons that don't seem apparent at first, such as learning how to be in completely touch with everyone around you.

I enjoy hitting things to make sound, and I enjoy the sound of gamelan. I like that playing gamelan requires relatively little musical training. For [musicians], being introduced to such a different musical structure might broaden their perspectives about, and appreciation for, the many kinds of music in the world. Other students may also appreciate exposure to [this] music, and learning about a different culture. Students who enjoy being on a team would enjoy gamelan, and those who don't enjoy being on a team might learn about listening to, and working with, others.



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