

THE ST. OLAF COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS

The St. Olaf Javanese Gamelan Ensemble

Rehanna Kheshgi, *director*

with the

Veslica International Dance Ensemble

Anne von Bibra, *director*

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022 • 7 P.M. • URNESS RECITAL HALL

PROGRAM

Lancaran Sayuk Slendro Pathet Manyuro

Just like each jewel on a sparkling necklace, every island on the Indonesian archipelago has its own personality and culture which together create one shining whole. Sayuk means “together in harmony” and the message of the song text expresses the importance of working together to build community. Sayuk is a short, traditional Javanese Gamelan composition set in the 16-beat cyclical rhythmic structure called Lancaran and performed today in the Slendro 5-note tuning system. You will notice that the drum (*kendhang*) is responsible for giving aural cues to direct the ensemble. The accompanying dance piece, choreographed by Tri Sutrisno, is called Ratna Sari, which means “essence of jewel.” Drawing upon dance styles from different regions of Indonesia, Ratna Sari alludes to the similarity between Indonesia’s string of islands and a string of jewels.

Ladrang Pangkur Pelog Pathet Barang

Pangkur was composed during the 18th century, based on a traditional Javanese song, “Macapat pangkur paripurno.” It is set in the 32-beat cyclical rhythmic structure called Ladrang. As with Sayuk, this piece also opens with an introductory melody (*buko*) played on the *bonang barang* (one of the elaborating instruments featuring two rows of kettle-gongs). Pangkur is one of the most famous traditional Javanese Gamelan compositions, as it can be performed in a variety of tunings and modes (*pathet*). We will perform Pangkur in the Pelog 7-note tuning system. Javanese Gamelan music generally features pentatonic melodies, even when songs are composed using the Pelog scale which contains seven notes. You will notice a change in *irama* when the main melody (*balungan*) slows down in tempo and the elaborating instruments increase the density of their playing.

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ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

The Javanese Gamelan, a musical ensemble from the Indonesian island of Java, represents deeply rooted beliefs related to Javanese society and spirituality. Javanese Gamelan performance can be understood to embody a vision for society where each member has a unique role to play. Multiple interconnected melodic and rhythmic layers offer a place for first time players to make music together with lifelong masters of this complex art form, and even the most accomplished performer recognizes that there is always room to learn more. During this performance, you will experience the interconnectedness of music and dance in the Javanese tradition.

We wish to extend a special note of thanks to **Mary Shamrock '58**, Professor Emerita of Music at California State University, Northridge, who has generously donated the Kyai Kembul Gamelan Instruments to St. Olaf College. Mary's support for and dedication to helping establish the Gamelan Program at St. Olaf has been invaluable.

ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

The St. Olaf Javanese Gamelan Ensemble

Ethan Amundson
Jake Dreifort
Jake Gesell
Aryaman Joshi
Maria Kardos

Abbey Kelley-Lanser
Addie Jo Lambrecht
Zack Light
Ashlyn May
Adam Pazandak

Will Rand
Asi Sijinjak
Kalli Sobania
Greta Van Loon
Isabel Wolf

Veselica International Dance Ensemble

Ellie Fischenich
Raveena-Flor Lalwani
Elizabeth Leeser
Abby Lund
Emma Matzke