

THE ST. OLAF COLLEGE DEPARTMENTS OF MUSIC AND DANCE PRESENT

The Javanese Gamelan Ensemble

Rehanna Khesghi, *director*

with the

Veselica International Dance Ensemble

Anne von Bibra, *director*

The Global Improvisation Ensemble

Francesca Andereg, *director*

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023 • 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 Siendro 5-note tuning system. You will notice that the *rum (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.

Landrang 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 Landrang. As with Sayuk, this piece also opens with an introductory melody (*buko*) played on the *bonang barung* (one of the elaborating instruments featuring two rows of kettle-gongs). Pangkur is one of the most famous traditional Javanese Gamelan compositions, so 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.

Wonderful Land

Bassam Saba

Rookery

Traditional Irish Reel

Joe Cooley’s Morning Dew

Traditional Irish Reel

Khsidim Tants

Traditional Klezmer Tune

Philadelphia Sher

Traditional Klezmer Tune

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About the Ensembles

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.

In the Global Improvisation Ensemble, students learn about music from different global traditions as well as reflect on their own musical background. Students learn tunes from different traditions and practice improvisation skills. In a collaborative setting, students co-write and perform arrangements drawing from traditions explored together by the group.

ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

The St. Olaf Javanese Gamelan Ensemble

Carson Aldrich
Maria Coughlan
Mars Dall
Hanna Leiseth
Olivia Loewe
Katie Nail
Ayano Rexer
Kaylyn Scourbys
Luke Soderbloom
Sarah Teske
Joseph Yang

The Global Improvisation Ensemble

Aryaman Joshi
Sam Meyers
Ayano Rexer
Olivia Werner