

WORLD MUSIC ENSEMBLE: BALINESE GAMELAN – Fall 2023
(MUSIC 116/117/216/217/316/317/416/417)
Department of Music, Conrad Grebel University College/University of Waterloo

Dewa Suparta, Artistic Director (Balinese Artist-In-Residence) dewa.suparta@uwaterloo.ca
Prof. Maisie Sum, General Director maisie.sum@uwaterloo.ca

Rehearsal Times: Tuesday **and** Thursday 7:00-8:30PM
Location: CGR Rm 1209

Office Hours: T & Th 6:30–7:00 PM; T: 8:30–9:00 PM
Location: CGR Rm 1209

1. **DESCRIPTION.** Balinese Gamelan Music

On the island of Bali, Indonesia the idea of community and the spirit of interaction are highly valued and extend to music-making. “Gamelan” (gah-muh-lan) is an Indonesian term for music ensemble. Bali has an array of gamelan, “a kaleidoscope of sound and rhythm that is recognized today as one of the world’s most sophisticated musical traditions” (Tenzer 1998). At Grebel, we have a gamelan *samara dana*: a large set of bronze percussion instruments consisting of tuned gongs and keyed metallophones for up to 30 musicians. End-of-term concerts may include an opportunity to perform with guest musicians and dancers. No previous experience with gamelan is necessary. *Open to all for credit or as an extra-curricular activity.*

2. **TEACHING METHOD.** An aural/oral tradition, repertoire is learned through imitation, repetition, and memorization, by listening and watching (i.e., without the use of notation), hearing and matching details of sound production and articulation. Applying these techniques immediately, students experience a hands-on communal process of learning to play shimmering, lightning-fast, and serenely measured melodies; ultimately creating a unified sound guided by a ‘conductor’ on a double-headed cylindrical drum. This teaching and learning process enhances the listening and ensemble skills of students and nurtures their musical development.

3.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please put the following dates into your agenda right away to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Dress rehearsal DATE: Knox Presbyterian at 3pm, Friday November 24th. Call time to move instruments: 1pm

Final concert at Knox Presbyterian Church, DATE: November 24 at **7:30 PM, CALL TIME: 6:00PM**

4. **CONCERT DRESS.** You are required to look uniform and neat onstage. Your first impression on the audience is visual. Remember they see you before they hear you. Our goal is to keep the music as the focal point. A uniform, professional look is desirable so as not to distract the audience. Here is the dress code:

- Pressed **black** long-sleeved button shirt or long-sleeved blouse (not a T-shirt or sweater, no stripes)
- Black dress pants or long black skirt (not jeans), or Balinese *sarung* (provided by the Dept. of Music)
- Black socks (we will remove our shoes for the performance), or bared feet if wearing *sarung*

5. **CLASS PARTICIPATION.** This is EXTREMELY important in this course, since the music is learned procedurally by rote.

- Your PRESENCE and attentiveness at every rehearsal and concert is obligatory (see **Attendance Policy**). During class time, please limit your coming and going to emergencies only. Attendance will be taken at every rehearsal. Failure to be at a dress rehearsal or concert will forfeit course credit.
- Your PUNCTUALITY is important. Please arrive on time as arriving late hinders learning for others. In such cases, the director reserves the right to assign the student to another instrument.
- Your PREPARATION:
 - Bring your **ear plugs**, and if needed, a recording device to use as a learning aid after class
 - **Memorize** your part. Students are expected to memorize the parts learned in each class. They are encouraged to rehearse outside of rehearsal time, on their own or with others. In order to assure that the music is learned and progress can be made as an ensemble, the director reserves the right to do ‘spot checks’ of the parts you have been taught from time to time if it appears that the music has not been adequately learned.
 - See Angelica Allen (a26allen@uwaterloo.ca) or Claudia van Decker (claudia.vandecker@uwaterloo.ca) in the Music Dept. Office (CGR Rm 1103) for room key and booking.
 - **N.B.** Regular sectionals, semi-private, and private lessons taught by Dewa Suparta may also be requested for course credit or extra practice on a first come first serve basis. Contact Claudia Van Decker about this possibility.
- Your POSTURE. Be aware that your body is part of your instrument. Use good posture – tall back, shoulders relaxed, legs crossed, head forward - when you are playing.
- Your ATTITUDE and PROFESSIONALISM in rehearsal and on stage is expected. Keep a positive attitude, an open mind, and have fun!

6. **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

- a. *By joining the ensemble you are making a commitment to all members.* You are expected to participate in **ALL** rehearsals.
- b. For *exceptional situations*, you may be excused from rehearsal; however, this **must** be cleared with the director **ahead of time**, with **at least a one-day notification** by email or in-person. To ensure this does not get lost or forgotten, please confirm any verbal discussions via email to the director.
- c. In case of *illness*, a medical note will be required for an excused absence.

- d. *Repeated absence* by a student will compromise the integrity of the music and hinder learning for others. In such cases, the director reserves the right to assign the student to another instrument, seek replacement, or ask the student to drop the course (in which case, they will not receive credit for the ensemble).
- e. To receive credit, attendance is **mandatory**:
 1. At all scheduled performance(s)/recording(s)
 2. At all dress rehearsal(s), as applicable
 3. At the last three rehearsals prior to scheduled performance(s)/recording(s)
 4. At any recording session(s), in addition to performance(s)
 5. Before and after a concert/recording to move instruments to and from the venue

Where a scheduled commitment conflicts with a scheduled class in one of your other courses, you are expected to notify the director **by the third rehearsal** of the term. An attempt will be made to work out a solution with you individually.
- f. The attendance policy applies to everyone taking the course for credit or as an extra-curricular activity.
7. **SELECTION PROCESS.** All new and experienced players are expected to attend the first open rehearsal. If we have a surplus of players, a decision will be made by the end of the second rehearsal.
8. **REGISTRATION PROCEDURE.** If this is your first term in an ensemble, register for MUSIC 116. Registration in subsequent semesters will use the following course numbers: 117/216/217/316/317/416/417.
***** PLEASE NOTE:** In the event, you are not accepted into the ensemble, it is **your responsibility** to drop the course from your schedule of classes. Credit is based on full participation (see Point 5. **Attendance Policy**).

Course Policies and the University of Waterloo

- **Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. For information, check www.uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity and the [Arts Academic Integrity Office Webpage \(http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility\)](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility) and <https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behavior>
- **Discipline:** A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm).
Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.
- **Appeals:** A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals. \(www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm)
- **Other sources of information for students:** [Academic Integrity website \(Arts\)](#) and [Academic Integrity Office \(UWaterloo\)](#)
- **Accommodation Due to Illness:** From time to time students become ill or have ongoing medical conditions that prevent them from meeting academic obligations. The University is committed to assisting students who are ill and has established the following policy:
- **Documentation:** Students in on-campus courses who are ill and unable to attend rehearsals should seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of the illness to the instructor(s) **within 48 hours**. A doctor’s note or form created by the physician or clinic is acceptable. In the case of a missed dress rehearsal, or end-of-term concert, students **must submit within 48 hours** medical documentation that contains the same information specified on the UWaterloo Verification of Illness Form.

Additional Information

Dewa Suparta is artist-in-residence at Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo. A performer, composer, and teacher, he hails from a prominent musical family renowned throughout the island of Bali for their artistry and charisma. A founding member of *Gamelan Çudamani*—recognized for their creativity—Dewa has toured internationally, performing at sacred music festivals, the Lincoln Center, in Europe, Asia, and North America. As an individual artist, he has engaged in collaborations with international artists and given workshops worldwide. Since moving to Canada, Dewa has held the positions of Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Music at l’Université de Montréal (UdM) and artistic director of Gamelan Giri Kedaton, resident ensemble at UdM, and has been featured as a guest artist for numerous North American gamelan groups. At Conrad Grebel University College, he is artistic director of the UWaterloo Balinese Gamelan and Grebel Community Balinese Gamelan, and teaches courses in Balinese music and culture (MUSIC 392). He also offers private, semi-private, and group instruction for course credit or as an extra-curricular activity on the *semaradana* instruments at UWaterloo, and on a Balinese chamber percussion ensemble called *gender (gen’de(ə)r wayang*.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing the music, culture, and communal spirit of Bali, Indonesia!