

Javanese Gamelan:
Historical Development

Pre-Hindu period

- ◆ Bronze technology arrives from mainland Southeast Asia c.300 BC
- ◆ Bronze kettle drums are the earliest bronze instruments in existence

Spread of Indian religions

c. 1st-16th century AD

- ◆ **Gamelan Monggang** created by Bathara Guru to call gods together - dated in Javanese myth from 347 AD
 - ◆ 3 tone gamelan
 - ◆ 4 x 3 kettle bonang-style instruments
 - ◆ 1x flat-shaped kenong
 - ◆ 2 penontong (kenong-style instruments)
 - ◆ rojeh (suspended metal disks played with mallet)
 - ◆ kendang (drums)
- ◆ Hindu-Buddhist Srivijaya kingdom emerges in Sumatra after 500 AD

Spread of Indian religions

c. 1st - 16th Century AD

- ◆ CENTRAL JAVANESE period (8th-11th Century AD)
- ◆ Sailendra Buddhist kingdom comes to prominence in Central Java .
Javanese music can be traced from this period, though evidence is meagre
- ◆ Srivijaya extends power and becomes an empire
- ◆ this period sees the fusion of Hindu and Buddhist belief into syncretic Indonesian cults (mixed with indigenous religions)

Spread of Indian religions

c. 1st-16th Century AD

- ◆ 11th-16th century AD East Javanese Period
- ◆ kingdoms of Kediri (fell 1222), followed by Singasari and then Majapahit (1293-1520)
- ◆ More evidence of music in this period – depictions of instruments and music making on temple reliefs, as well as evidence in poetry and other literature of the importance of music and performing arts in court life

Spread of Islam c. 13th century AD -

- ◆ Islam reaches coastal areas of Java through trading in 13th Century. Type of Islam brought to Indonesia is Sufism, which emphasizes the practice of mysticism, values the arts (particularly poetry and music) as ways of achieving union with Allah. Hindu-Javanese culture continues to exist, either independently, alongside or fusing with Islamic culture.
- ◆ **Terbang** (frame drum) ensemble
- ◆ **Gamelan SEKATEN**: believed to have been created by one of the nine Islamic saints (wali sanga), who advised the court of the Sultan of Demak (16th century), to attract converts to the mosque, and for ceremonial purposes. (However Kunst 1973 suggests that the ensemble already existed for Hindu ceremonial purposes.)
 - ◆ extremely large saron-type instruments
 - ◆ large hanging drum
 - ◆ large bonang played by two players
 - ◆ performed to commemorate the prophet Mohammed's birthday. Two sets of instruments on either side of the mosque play during the week of celebrations from 12 noon to 12 midnight, alternating. Only 2 sekaten gendhing (pieces) exist, but others can be adapted

Spread of European trading 16th C -

- ◆ Portuguese, Dutch and English struggle for the spice trade. Portuguese are the first to arrive, are dominant in the 16th century, and impact Indonesian culture in several ways: Linguistically (Portuguese was lingua franca), currency was adopted, some conversion to Catholicism particularly in the eastern islands. Kroncong is the musical legacy
 - ◆ debt to sixteenth century folk music of Portugal, originally associated with Mardijkers ('Black Portuguese') descendants of African and Asian slaves in Batavia (Java) community existed until 19th century, merged with Eurasian community. Urban folk music, a few melodies used for improvised verse - pantun (Malay language quatrains). 'Kroncong' name of plucked lute, similar to ukelele, basis of instrumentation (also flute, drum, violin guitar, etc)
 - ◆ By mid 1930s idiom became fixed. Modern ensemble: singer, violin, flute, guitar, cello, bass, ukelele and mandolin (contemporary amplified/electronic instruments also included). Florid melody, stratified, cello pizzicato.
 - ◆ Transformation from regional urban folk - national popular music - nostalgic and regionalized music (e.g. langgam of Java)

Spread of European trading 16th C -

- ◆ Dutch arrive in archipelago in the late 16th century, increased trading and intervention in Indonesian states, not without resistance. Javanese kings become more dependent on advice and financial help of Dutch.
- ◆ In-fighting between Javanese royalty and religious factions, carefully aided and abetted by the Dutch, results in the kingdom of Mataram in Central Java being permanently split into two sultanates in the 18th century (1755): Kasultanan (in the area of Yogyakarta) and Kasuhunan (in the area of Surakarta). A further principedom (Mangkunegaran, in Surakarta) is established in 1757.
- ◆ After the Dutch capitulated to the British in the first Napoleonic war, they turned over Java to the British. During the British interregnum 1811-16, a further principedom is established (Paku Alam, in Yogyakarta) in 1813. The military power of the courts is diminished, and political rivalry is transformed into artistic rivalry, resulting in an intense period of cultural and artistic development (in poetry, dance, gamelan, wayang, etc) as all four courts (2 major, 2 minor) develop their own styles.
- ◆ European elite/intellectuals input ideas into this cultural renaissance.
 - ◆ Example: Gendhing MARES (trad. dance genre - Srimpi - accompanied by gamelan with trumpet and snare drum.)
- ◆ By the 19th century, Indonesia is a Dutch colony
- ◆ Stylistic development is complicated by alliances (generally through marriage) across courts, so for example there are more stylistic similarities in the music of the court of Paku Alam (Yogyakarta) and the Kasuhunan (Surakarta) than the Paku Alam and its geographical neighbour, the court of the Kasultanan.

20th Century

- ◆ 1942-5 Japanese occupation During World War II, Indonesia is occupied by the Japanese. Officially Indonesia is still a colony of the Netherlands (itself occupied by the Germans).
- ◆ 1945-9 Indonesian independence After the end of the war the Japanese leave Indonesia, and a war for independence is waged against the Dutch. Independence is gained across the territory from 1945-9. During the Independence struggle, the Kasultanan (Yogyakarta) fights against the Dutch, while the Kasuhunan supports the Dutch. Subsequently, Yogyakarta is made a special region, with special privileges and bursaries, while Surakarta is not honoured. Sukarno is made the first president of Indonesia (1945-67).

20th-21st century

- ◆ 1950s First academies of the performing arts are established in Java. Gradually take over the role of the court as patron and developer of the performing arts.
- ◆ 1967 Sukarno deposed by Suharto, and the New Order is established. Period of considerable repression but economic stability until mid 1990s.
- ◆ 1998: period of turmoil and rioting leading to Suharto being deposed in May 1998. Subsequent reinjection of overt political content and purpose into the performing arts.
- ◆ Indonesia's subsequent presidents: Baharuddin Yusuf Habibie (1998-9), Abdurrahman Wahid [Gus Dur] (1999-2001), and currently Megawati Sukarnoputri (daughter of Sukarno 2001-).
- ◆ after annexation in 1977 and a long and brutal struggle against the Indonesian government, becoming a U.N. Protectorate in 1999, the former Portuguese colony of East Timor is made an independent territory in 2002. The independence movement in Aceh, Sumatra, continues to fight against the Indonesian government.
- ◆ Next elections: July 2004.