

Gamelan Music

Gamelan music is an important part of Indonesian culture. Gamelan music comes from the islands of _____ and Bali. It is played at _____ and religious events. Most villages have a special area where the gamelan plays.

Gamelan music is played by a kind of _____ orchestra, also called a gamelan. Indonesians think of a gamelan as one single instrument – all the performers are jointly playing the same instrument.

Gamelan instruments are made in sets with lots of _____ and painted decoration. The gamelan is thought to be magical and spiritual. Gamelan music isn't written down. Players learn their parts by listening, watching and _____. Players learn all the parts in a piece so they can understand how the whole thing fits together.

There are two scales used in gamelan music. These are the slendro and _____ scales. The main tune is called the balungan. The tune is repeated over and over by the metallophone, creating a _____ cycle. Higher pitched metallophones play _____ on the main tune and lower pitched instruments play bits of the tune, often missing out the last _____ of each bar. Other instruments are used to decorate the tune and the _____ mark out the rhythm.

WORD BANK

carved	pelog	beat	copying	percussion
gongs	rhythmic	Java	celebrations	variations

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