



GAMELAN GONG KEBYAR



Timeline

c.800	c.1200	c.1400	1906	1925	1949
Buddhist monument shows musical ensemble playing instruments	First known groups of Gamelan musicians from Buddhist and Hindu kingdoms	European invasions led to a mixture of traditional and western instruments	The Dutch invade South Bali	I Mario Tabanan creates kebyar dance to accompany the music	Indonesia becomes independent and Gamelan music schools are created

Key Compositions

Gamelan Semar Pegulingan	1972 - Lighter sounding than Gamelan gong kebyar and accompanied with a female dancer
Gender Wayang	1992 - From Sukawati Village, Bali to accompany shadow puppets
Gamelan Gong Kebyar	1996 - A wide range of instruments in a typically loud and expressive style
The Seven-Tone Gamelan Orchestra	2002 - From the Village of Pengosekan, Bali
Southbank Gamelan Players	2010 - Live performance by an English electronic band called 'Plaid' featuring a Gamelan group
Bjork - Crystalline	2011 - Icelandic popstar Bjork created her own instrument called a gameleste by emptying her celesta (bell-piano) and filling it with bronze bars
Gamelan Pacifica - Nourishment	2015 - Composed by Philip Glass and also featuring a cello, singer and violin in parts
Four Tet - Suns, Drums and Gamelan	2020 - English-born electronic musician Kieran Hebden uses Gamelan in his own record



There is a greater number of orchestras and musicians in Bali than anywhere else in the world - about 1,500 orchestras to just three million people.

Gamelan Information

What is Gamelan?

Across Indonesia, but particularly on the islands of Java and Bali, *gamelan* is the most popular form of traditional music. A gamelan ensemble consists of a variety of metal percussion instruments. *Kebyar* means "to burst open" and refers to the explosive changes in tempo and dynamic style of music.

Multiple Instruments

Instruments are often made of metal and played with hammer-shaped mallets. Kebyar instruments are most often grouped in pairs, or "gendered." Each pair consists of a male and female instrument, the female being slightly larger and slightly lower in pitch. These instruments include gongs, xylophones, metal plates, drums and a range of unusual instruments and can have as many as forty musicians. People believe that the instruments belong to the community and that no one person has ownership over them.

Music is Everywhere

Balinese gamelan is often used to accompany religious ceremonies and entertainment. It is often played during religious ceremonies or with sacred traditional dances. In terms of entertainment, Balinese Gamelan is presented as a musical performance, including dancing, as well as accompaniment to various arts.

Key Events

Dutch Invasion

When the Dutch invaded South Bali in 1906 the power of the palaces declined and most of the court gamelans passed into the villages where they continued to be used at temple festivals.

Gamelan Gong Kebyar Creation

Around 1914 in Buleleng district in the north of Bali, musicians were experimenting with traditions, forms and styles, and this resulted in a mix of styles. It was notably in the villages of Jagaraga and Bungkulan that this explosive style was born and competition between gamelan clubs in different villages and regions began.

I Mario Tabanan

Kebyar duduk is a Balinese dance created by I Mario and first performed in 1925. Inspired by the development of the quick-paced gamelan gong kebyar, kebyar duduk is named for the seated and half-seated positions taken by the dancers.