

Gamelan Orchestra Or Release your Musical creativity
This weekend will allow members to create their own
Music using percussion instruments and techniques from
Indonesian Gamelan Music.

What is Gamelan?

A multi layered collection of pentatonic melodies
and varied rhythms. Complicated to describe but quite
easy to work with when playing.
It's characteristics are

Pentatonic

A five note scale. We shall be using e,g,a,b,c which for the technically minded is part of the Phrygian mode (used a lot in blues and folk music)

Melodies

Most Balinese gamelan melodies move in circles. They start with an introduction. After the introduction, the orchestra joins in for the main melody. This is repeated over and over again. It may end by just stopping, by branching off to a final line or by a switch to another melody - which then also will be repeated several times.

Circles

A repeating, circular melody needs structural elements to show the beginning and end or to provide a mark where the melody may be stopped and where a switch may be made. The hanging gongs give this structure.

Layers

If we call the flow of the music "horizontal", then in the other direction, "vertically", Balinese gamelan melodies are built of musical layers that move at different speeds.

Participants will create melodies by exploring the land here at the community and distilling their response to this environment into a short phrase or sentence. We will then as a group use the rhythms and tune of natural speech to generate a pentatonic melody.
Each person's tune will form a section of the final musical work.

