

# GAMIELAN GALAK TIKA



WESTPORT LIBRARY

Saturday, May 4, 2024  
3:00pm



# Program

Tabuh Telu Lipi Aon (“Space Snakes”)

Gusti Komin

Tari Rejang Renteng

Traditional

Dancers: Emma Terrell, Erin Thomas

Sekar Jepun

I Wayan Gandra

selection of gender wayang repertoire

Performed by: Gamelanakemana  
(Ian Coss, Matt Elkins, Emma Terrell, and Erin Thomas)

Tipat Balang (“Grasshopper” or “Cricket”)

Gusti Komin





## What is gamelan?

The word gamelan means "to hammer;" the term refers generally to the large percussion orchestras of Java and Bali. The primary instruments are gongs, metallophones and hand drums, with cymbals, vocals and bamboo flutes used as well. Gamelan is the wellspring of all music in Bali, both sacred and secular. The Balinese people are ardent practitioners of a unique form of Hinduism, and gamelan is necessary for all ritual events, as well as to mark any large social occasion. There are dozens of different types of gamelans in Bali, ranging from large metal orchestras to bamboo ensembles, vocal groups, and groups dedicated to the imitation of frog sounds. Common amongst all Balinese gamelan is the rhythmically precise interlocking parts known as *kotekan*. For this concert, Gamelan Galak Tika is performing on a gamelan called *Gong Kebyar*, the most prolific type of gamelan heard in Bali today. The word "kebyar" translates to "explosion" or "sudden burst of flame," depicted by the abrupt stops and starts of the melodies. This group of instruments uses the *pelog* scale, one of the two non-equal tempered pentatonic scales of Balinese gamelans - *pelog* and *slendro*.



## Tabuh Telu Lipi Aon (“Space Snakes”)

Tabuh Telu Lipi Aon is a new composition by Gusti Komin based on the development of a classic *lelambatan* piece. *Lelambatan* is a genre of Balinese gamelan first originating in the gamelan gong gede ensembles, and later recreated and reimagined for the gamelan gong kebyar ensemble, which was first popularized in Bali in the 1920s. Komin created this so his students would learn gamelan technique in the classic style of playing. The title was inspired by his students based on their feelings about the sinewy style of the composition.

## Tari Rejang Renteng

Tari Rejang Renteng is a Balinese folk art dance performed specifically by women and for women. The dance movements are simple, yet progressive and agile. Rejang Renteng is typically performed during a traditional Hindu Dharma ceremony or other religious ceremonies. Our dancers today will be Emma Terrell and Erin Thomas.

## Sekar Jepun

Sekar Jepun is a classic instrumental composition performed on the gamelan gong kebyar. Gusti Komin first learned how to play Sekar Jepun from his dad, I Gusti Ketut Kerta, a renowned gender wayang performer and musician. In Gusti Komin’s words, “I learned from my dad by listening to him singing when I was about seven-years-old. Also, I learned the drum part from my dad at the time - only by singing the drum part - because we didn’t have any instruments at home. I saved most of the piece from that time until now. When I had the chance to share this piece with Gamelan Galak Tika, it made me proud and nostalgic about my dad and the times when I started to learn gamelan.”

## Tipat Balang (“Grasshopper” or “Cricket”)

Tipat Balang is a modern gender wayang composition created by Gusti Komin in 2016. This piece was initially composed to be played only on gender, an instrument traditionally used to accompany gender wayang (shadow puppet) performances. Today, we will perform an arrangement featuring gender wayang and gamelan gong kebyar. The gender and gong kebyar instruments are tuned based on different pentatonic scales known as *slendro* (5-tone) and *pelog* (7-tone). The mixing of these scales creates a slightly discordant sound. This composition was inspired by the sonorous activities of grasshoppers (*balung*) in the middle of the night in rice paddies throughout Bali.





## Gusti Komin Darta, Artistic Director

Originally from the village of Pengosekan, Bali, Gusti Komin Darta has been hailed as a leading composer, performer, and teacher of Balinese music of his generation. Born in 1978, he first studied music with his father, renowned musician Gusti Ketut Kerta, and began performing professionally for shadow puppet plays (wayang) at the age of 9. As a teenager, he enrolled at the prestigious national arts conservatory, now known as the Indonesian Institute for the Arts. Gusti Komin is a founding member of the virtuosic Balinese gamelan Çudamani and has toured extensively throughout Europe, Japan, and the United States. For 25 years he taught gender wayang, reyong, and kendang instruments to local and foreign students out of his family home in Pengosekan, Bali as well as teaching overseas.

Gusti Komin currently performs and teaches widely along the U.S. east coast and is sought after as a composer, performer, and educator. He is Founding Director of the innovative chamber gamelan Saiban, and teaches at various American universities including MIT, as well as community-based groups such as Gamelan Galak Tika in Boston, MA, Gamelan Dharma Swara in New York City, NY, and Nusantara Arts in Buffalo, NY.

Widely acknowledged as Master of gender wayang, one of its foremost contemporary composers blending traditional and modern gamelan music in imaginative ways, exacting teacher and rebellious spirit, Komin writes music that explodes conventions and pushes limitations of even the strongest performers.



# About Gamelan Galak Tika

Gamelan Galak Tika, an ensemble-in-residence at MIT, has been at the forefront of innovative, cross-cultural music for Balinese gamelan since 1993. Founded by Evan Ziporyn, Desak Madé Suarti Laksmi, and I Nyoman Catra, Galak Tika is currently directed by Gusti Komin Darta, drawing its membership from across the Boston community as well as MIT students and staff. The name "Galak Tika" is Bahasa Kawi (classical Javanese, a dialect of Sanskrit) for "intense togetherness."

Galak Tika has performed at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, BAM, Boston Symphony Hall, Jordan Hall, several Bang on a Can Marathons, Southern Exposure, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Zankel Hall, the Boston Museum of Science, and the Kripalu Yoga Institute, along with many east coast universities. In 2005, the group performed at the Bali International Arts Festival and in numerous villages around the island. In addition to its dedication to the traditional music and dance of Bali, Galak Tika regularly commissions and performs new works by Balinese and American composers for gamelan in combination with western, non-western and electronic instruments. Gamelan Galak Tika's outreach includes a youth gamelan, dance classes, and school workshops. It also created the first-ever "kecak-along," a participatory performance in which 1,000 people were taught to shout the interlocking rhythms of the famous Balinese monkey chant. In 2016, Galak Tika members Mark Stewart and Emeric Viani founded Anak Tika, a youth gamelan program, bringing gamelan into the lives of dozens of Boston & Cambridge area students. Anak Tika provides year-round classes and workshops, collaborating frequently with Galak Tika, creating a collaborative learning and performance environment for members of both ensembles. For more information please visit [www.cambridgeyouthgamelan.com](http://www.cambridgeyouthgamelan.com)

Galak Tika has commissioned and premiered works by Terry Riley, Glenn Kotche, Evan Ziporyn, Christine Southworth, Dewa Ketut Alit, Desak Made Suarti Laksmi, Robin Buyer, Ramon Castillo, Midori Matsuo, Joshua Penman, Sam Schmetterer, Dan Schmidt, and PoChun Wang, among others. Notable projects have included Riley's "White Space Conflict," Southworth's "SuperCollider" for electronic gamelan and Kronos Quartet, and Ziporyn's "Tire Fire" for gamelan and guitars. It has released several recordings of new and classical repertoire, including most recently Lou Harrison's Concerto for Piano with Javanese Gamelan with Sarah Cahill as soloist. For more information, please visit <http://galaktika.org> or email [gustikomin@yahoo.com](mailto:gustikomin@yahoo.com)

## Gamelan Galak Tika is...

Josh Bellis, Yun-Chen Chou, Ian Coss, John Cho, Rhogerry Deshycka, Matthew Elkins, Chiara Evans, J.D. Fishman, Allie Horton, Gusti Komin, Micah Lubensky, Nathan Montgomery, Emma Terrell, Erin Thomas, Leslie Tilley, Emeric Viani, and Evan Ziporyn.

