

Finkelstein Memorial Library
Spring Valley, NY
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Gamelan is the name for the indigenous percussion ensemble of Java, Bali and other parts of Indonesia. It consists of a basic group of metalophones (xylophones) and gongs tuned in the unique non-western scales of slendro and pelog. To these instruments may be added drums, voices, flutes and strings.

There are currently a little over a hundred sets of gamelan instruments in America, mostly based at academic institutions. Americans have also been performing and composing for gamelan instruments for several decades. Gamelan Son of Lion ensemble focuses on new music development using gamelan instruments. The ensemble is based in Manhattan and gives regular concerts both there and in Rockland County, as well as touring through the northeast. The instruments of Son of Lion were made by composer-ethnomusicologist Barbara Benary.

Tonight's program also includes wayang kulit, the shadow-puppet theatre of Java, using handmade puppets of Javanese and American origin.

The pieces

Gineman: traditional Balinese Angklung music

Asmarandana: court music of central Java

The Buffalo Wayang: an arrangement in English of traditional Javanese-style shadow puppet play

Eine Kleine Gamelan Music by Daniel Goode

Currents by Peter Griggs, with Casio synthesizer

Three Coyote Stories by Lou Harrison: a setting of Native American tales using Javanese shadow puppets

This program is made possible in part by public funds from New York State Council on the Arts