

TRANSCRIPTION

There are two important aspects of the following transcription of Jogja-style bonang playing. The first is that it represents the playing of K.R.T. Wasitodipuro, known as Pak Cokro, who is famous throughout Indonesia as a musician, composer and teacher, and is one of America's greatest teachers of gamelan. There are few students of Javanese music who have not studied with him or played his music. And he is a master of the melodic, elaborating, Jogja style.

The second reason is that the bonang is one of the instruments that straddles the line between requiring beginning and advanced technique. A first year student can easily play the most simple of patterns, while some of the pieces featuring the instrument, called Gending Bonang, involve advanced technique and understanding.

This two-faceted role of the bonang is no problem for the Javanese teacher who can challenge and lead the student along. But for the composer working alone, or the westerner attempting to teach a beginning group, there is the dangerous inclination to conceive of bonang patterns as simple, repetitive, and predictable.

In this transcription of Pak Cokro's playing, we can see some of the melodic possibilities in bonang mipil (the style of playing that deals with pairs of balungan tones). For example, a phrase or pattern anticipating the tones 3 2 can be played in a variety of ways.

in IRAMA II

simple	3 2 3	3	2 3 2	2	BALUNGAN
Jogja style	3 2 7	3	2 7 2	2	BONANG, MIPIL, MLAMPAH
Solo style	3 7 3	3	2 7 2	2	
	. 2 3	3	2 3 2	2	

We hope that this will be one of many closer looks at the melodic complexity of the elaborating instruments of the Javanese gamelan.



Pak Cokro at U. C. Berkeley



Ladrang Sigramangsan

laras pelog, palet barang

buka:

BONANG: 6 6 6 6
BALUNGAN:

BONANG: 6 6 6 6
B. . . .

BONANG: 5 5 5 5
B. . . .

BONANG: 6 5 6 5
B. 6 5

Bonangan Jogja style

7 2 7 6 3 2 6 3 6 5 2 2

BONANG: 6 6 6 6 . 3 2 2 2
BALUNGAN: 3

BONANG: 6 6 6 6 . 6 6 6 6 . 2 2 2 3(5)
B. . . . 6 2

BONANG: 5 5 5 5 . 5 5 5 5 . 5 3 5 3
B. . . . 3 5

BONANG: 6 5 6 5 2 7 2 7 3 2 7 2 7 6 6 7 6
B. 6 5 2 7 3 2 7 2 7 3 2 7 6 7 7 6

IRAMA I

BONANG: 3 5 3 5 6 7 2 7 2 7 3 2 7 6 7 6
BALUNGAN: 3 3 3 3 6 6 6 6 3 3 3 3 6 6 6 6

BONANG: 3 5 3 5 6 7 2 7 2 7 3 2 7 6 7 6
B. 3 3 3 3 6 6 6 6 3 3 3 3 6 6 6 6

BONANG: 3 3 3 3 . 3 3 3 3 . 3 3 3 3 7 2 7 2 7 6 7 6
B. 3 3 3 3 5 5 5 5 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 6 6 6 6

BONANG: 3 7 3 3 2 6 3 6 5 3 5 2 6 6 2 2 0 6 0 2
B. 3 3 3 3 2 2 2 2 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 3 3 3 3

