

1999 Festival of Dance at The Roxbury Arts Center

Saturday, August 21

Gamelan Son of Lion

Gamelan Son of Lion specializes in contemporary pieces for instruments of the Javanese gamelan percussion orchestra. A Javanese gamelan consists of a basic group of metallophones (xylophones), bamboo, drums, flutes, and, knobbed gongs. The metal instruments are tuned in two unique non-western scales called *slendro* and *pelog*. This repertory ensemble will present a rich and diverse representation of traditional pieces of Java and Bali.

Gamelan Son of Lion was begun by a core group of composers: Barbara Benary, Daniel Goode, and Phillip Corner. The ensemble's repertoire focuses on new compositions by these and other American composers in a variety of contemporary styles. More than a hundred new pieces have been premiered by the ensemble since its inception in 1976. In keeping with this mission, Music for Theremin and Gamelan, will be premiered at the Dance Festival performance. Composed by New Kingston summer resident David Simons, Music for Theremin and Gamelan was commissioned by the American Composer's Forum.

The Theremin

The Theremin is an early electronic musical instrument, and is played not by touching, but by proximity to the invisible electromagnetic spheres generated by two antennas which control pitch and volume. Simons has devised a MIDI interface, which enables him to trigger a digital sampler while playing the Theremin. The magnetic field generated by the Theremin is so sensitive and microtonal, Simons must use intricate hand gestures to reach into the sphere of possibility and "touch the invisible" in order to activate this extra dimension of sound. What makes this premiere especially notable is that combining a Gamelan ensemble and a Theremin has probably never been done before.

David Simons

In addition to his projects with Gamelan Son of Lion, Simons composes music for theater, dance, film, installations, and concert ensembles. He has toured in Korea, Cuba, and throughout Europe.

Tjokorda Gde Arsa Artha

Along a more traditional route, Tjokorda Gde Arsa Artha, a member of the Balinese royal family, will perform dances of his native land accompanied by the authentic Bali music called Angklung. As Artistic Director to the Indonesian Consulate General, he organized and directed his own gamelan and dance ensemble, Dharma Swara. He has performed at the American Museum of Natural History, the Asia Society of New York, the LaMama Theater of New York City, the Bali-Java Dance Theater, and other notable venues. Gamelan Son of Lion has performed at festivals in Vancouver (EXPO '86) and Java (Yogyakarta '96). And has worked with choreographers Mark Morris (Brooklyn Academy of Music), Douglas Dunn (Dance Space at St. Mark's Church), Jody Oberfelder (Joyce Downtown), and the Shakespeare Festival in Central Park directed by Lee Breuer.

Thursday, August 26

Tysan Dance

A dance student since the age of five at the Joffrey Ballet School and who has also studied with Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, and at SUNY Purchase. Tysan has danced and acted in off-Broadway shows at La Mama Theater, Theater of the New City, and Paper Mill Playhouse. She recently presented her works at the Dance Space in New York City.

Tysan will be joined by Yung Yung Tsuai a native of China. Yung Yung has danced with Martha Graham, Pearl Lang, Daniel Nagrin, Vanaver Caravan, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre prior to moving to Roxbury.

Friday, August 27

Wally Cardona Dance Quartet

Wally Cardona is a rising young choreographer and dancer whose "dances shift... between soft loops of lucious movement and brisk athletic thrusts into space." Writes Jennifer Dunning in the New

Gamelan Son Of Lion

Roxbury Arts Center, Roxbury New York August 21, 1999

With: Tjokorda Gde Arsa Artha, Barbara Benary, Sasha Bogdanowitsch, Nick Brooke, Iris Brooks, Mark Steven Brooks, Darryl Gregory, Lisa Karrer, David Simons, Allison Sloan, Anne Stebinger

Balaganju - Traditional Balinese Processional; arranged by David Simons

Dream of the Circle - by Sasha Bogdanowitsch; short concerto for Erhu (Chinese Fiddle) and Gamelan in slendro tuning

Demonstration of Balinese Dance Masks - Tjokorda Gde Arsa Artha; with musical accompaniment Tenganan Tingklik

Lelambetan Porsni - Transcription from the repertoire of the 5-note Balinese Gamelan Angklung; arranged by Barbara Benary

Janger Gegandrungan - From the 4-note Balinese Gamelan angklung repertoire Dance: Topeng Tua (The Old Man), performed by Tjokorda Gde Arsa Artha; the wise old ancestor and adviser represents an old, retired warrior trying to re-discover the lost vigor of his youth; a scene both humorous and touching, performed with slow graceful movement.

Imogen's Song - by Darryl Gregory; music derived from Shakespeare's play "Cymbeline".

~ BRIEF PAUSE ~

Music for Theremin and Gamelan (premiere) - by David Simons* Combining the pelog and slendro scales of Gamelan, new harmonies are created. The Theremin is one of the earliest electronic musical instruments, invented in the 1920's in Russia. In addition to simply playing the notes the Theremin is also triggering samples of gamelan, radio, blown bottles, and bits of early Theremin virtuoso Clara Rockmore, through a Midi interface of Simons' own design.

Four Kotekan - Balinese interlocking rhythms performed on bamboo instruments; arranged by David Simons and performed with Lisa Karrer

Kecak (Monkey Chant) - From a story found in the Hindu epic Ramayana. Hanuman the Monkey King helps to rescue the Princess Sita with his army of chanting monkeys. Derived from the Sanghyang trance dance, this Kecak is performed in Bali, sometimes with one hundred singers and dancers. In our version Gde portrays the evil King Rahwana.

**Commissioned by Gamelan Son of Lion, underwritten by the American Composers Forum, with funds provided by the Jerome Foundation.*