



Friday, June 7, 2002 - 7PM
at The Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia
5 East 68th Street, New York City

Workshop Preview:

Woman's Song: The Story of Roro Mendut, Conceived, composed and directed by Lisa Karrer

Cast:

Ariel Estrada
Deena Burton
Ayu Armini
Lisa Karrer

Wiroguno
Servant; Roro Mendut's Assistant; Wiroguno's Spy
Roro Mendut
Pronocitro

Composer/Director/Set Design
Production Design/Special effects
Stage Manager
Technical Assistants
Set Construction

Lisa Karrer
Kate Yourke
Karen Haight
Charla Myers & Jesse Lyle
Jason DeAntonis

I first conceived of this project when I read Sitor Situmorang's beautiful poem "Woman's Song" (Lagu Perempuan), translated by John H. McGlynn. I wrote to Mr. Situmorang, who kindly gave me permission to use his poem in a musical context. The story of Roro Mendut was told to me by Arahmaiani, an Indonesian performance artist with whom I had hoped to collaborate. Unfortunately, lack of funding kept us on different parts of the planet. I want to thank Arahmaiani and Sitor for their inspiration in the creation of "Woman's Song: The Story of Roro Mendut". This project has been awarded development funding from the Greenwall Foundation toward supporting a full production in 2003. "Woman's Song" can be heard on Gamelan Son of Lion's new CD "Bending the Gending".

Order of Pieces:

- ~ Balaganju - opening procession
- ~ Bamboo Harem
- ~ Roro Mendut's Entrance Song
- ~ Snake Charm Transition
- ~ Fan Dance Improv
- ~ Woman's Song Instrumental
- ~ Kecapi Strings
- ~ Spy Dance
- ~ Gong Drum Battle
- ~ Woman's Song Finale

Roro Mendut's Entrance Song (Walt Whitman)

I celebrate myself and sing myself
And what I shall assume you shall assume
For every atom belonging to me
as good belongs to you
I celebrate myself
and sing myself

Woman's Song (Lagu Perempuan)

Hearing you sing
with no hope in your voice
I believe that
victory will be had
by those who mourn
Oh, faithful woman
no doubt it is your song that stirs my body
from the welter of grief
that raises a new dawn
and some day, when all this is past
that is you will accept my love
stiff and bloodied
prostrate at your feet.

Jika kau bernyanyi demikian
tak lagi harap apa
Aku percaya kemenangan
ada padamu yang duka

O, perempuan setia
pasti lagumu yang mengharu seluruh tubuh
dari kepekatan duka
barimu membuka subuh
kelak, bila semua telah sudah
dan di kakimu cinta,
kaku dan berdarah
sujud kau terima



Gamelan Son of Lion's Annual Spring Concert

The Unraveling by David Simons

The combined 10 note scale of pelog and slendro tunings intertwines like DNA strands. The bonang, played like a reyong, is in pelog and all the other instruments are slendro. The balance between the two pitch worlds unravels, as does the intricate lattice-work of rhythms, to the point where we hear the reverse engineering. The unraveling of the composer.....and the performer.....and the archivist. With lots of incense. When you are led by the hand to a sacrificial ceremony.

Reconciliation Dance by Jody Kruskal

Written for a production of *Midsummernight's Dream*, this arrangement uses the slendro instrument tuning with violin and viola.

Tango by Barbara Benary, with dance by Deena Burton

A useful piece of music that has seen many incarnations: first sung onstage by an irate Greek goddess, later danced by Queen Esther as a shadow puppet to seduce her king. Now only one question remains: does it really take two to tango?

Seven by Paul Hogan

This piece explores the sometimes blurry relationship of improvised and composed music.

Nine-Eleven: a collective response to the World Trade disaster. Theme by Barbara Benary; variations and interludes by Laura Liben, Daniel Goode, David Simons and David Demnitz

America, be wise in time of war
Rush not forth in fear, nor close your eyes.
Heed your own heart's call:
Don't trade the freedoms once held dear
Though the towers fall.

Gamelan Son of Lion: Barbara Benary, David Demnitz, Daniel Goode, Paul Hogan, Bill Jacobs, Jody Kruskal, Lisa Karrer, Skip LaPlante and Marnen Laibow-Koser, Paula Matthusen and David Simons

Gamelan Son of Lion has been performing and presenting new music in the greater New York area since 1976. We are a new music repertory ensemble and composers' collective based in downtown New York City, specializing in contemporary pieces written for the instruments of the Javanese gamelan percussion orchestra. Our gamelan, built in Indonesian village style by Barbara Benary using steel keys, cans, hubcaps, etc. along with traditional drums and gongs, is tuned in the traditional slendro and pelog scales. Gamelan Son of Lion has premiered over a hundred new compositions by American and international composers in various contemporary styles, and has toured in Indonesia, Canada and New Zealand. The ensemble also presents traditional music of Java and Bali, wayang kulit shadow puppetry and Indonesian dance. Our music can be heard on CD's *New Gamelan New York*, *Gamelan as a Second Language* and *Bending the Gending*, as well as various audio and video cassettes available from the ensemble or from American Gamelan Institute at www.gamelan.org

Following the program, we invite you to a reception and *Bending The Gending* CD release celebration hosted by the Consul General of Indonesia.

State of the Arts



NYSCA

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We thank the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia for generously hosting this event.

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