

The fascinating sound of gamelan

composers' clinic for Javanese gamelan by Ensemble Gending

Composers clinic *The fascinating sound of gamelan* offers an intensive gamelan experience to composers. You get the chance to experiment thoroughly, and after a period of sketching and rehearsals, your music will sound in actual performance.

Applications until 14 March 2009 via: info@gending.nl

Ensemble Gending

Since its foundation in 1988, Ensemble Gending has been focusing on the realization of new compositions for Javanese gamelan. The gamelan is regularly combined with other (western) instruments, particularly percussion, as well as with electronics and visuals.

Javanese gamelan and acculturation

The Javanese gamelan is an inspiring source of sounds, which forces composers to tread outside the familiar paths, and it makes them ponder the position of western music in relation to eastern musical cultures. The basic idea of Dutch composer Ton de Leeuw, from whose gamelan composition *Gending* our ensemble took its name, is still a source of inspiration:

Acculturation – the ability in cultures to learn from each other – is as important as ever.

World of the gamelan, gamelan of the world

- A different sound and tone gamut, a millennium old bronze harmony
- Discover a completely new concept of orchestration and arranging
- Contemporary Java: a seething laboratory of musical innovation
- Join a vivid universe of young composers at the other side of the world
- Debussy, Britten, McPhee, Vivier, Harrison were already deeply impressed by the gamelan, and now... you!

The instruments

Ensemble Gending has a complete Javanese gamelan set. A sample library of the instruments will be available on-line in 2009.

Composers' clinic*

Composers will have the opportunity to work with the musicians of the ensemble for several months. Tutored by experienced composers and guest teachers the participants will exchange experiences and will give feedback to each other's work.

The central issue in this project is the exploration of the instruments in theory *and* practice.

The actually participating composers will write a work for Ensemble Gending.

The clinic will start with informative workshops and lectures on gamelan and instrumentation. Composers can also attend these activities as a listener, without actually participating in the practicum.

The fascinating sound of gamelan is a collaboration of Ensemble Gending and Muziek Centrum Nederland. In September 2009 Ensemble Gending will present the results of this project in the International Gaudeamus Music Week at the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ in Amsterdam.

**Realization of this project as a whole is at the moment of writing – February 2009 – still depending on granting subsidy by NFPK+*

Procedure

To be able to devote ample attention to each composer and every composition, we have limited the amount of admissions. A committee will make a selection from the applicants. The members of the committee are Jurrien Sligter, artistic leader of Ensemble Gending, two musicians of the ensemble and three external advisors, amongst whom will be composer Roderik de Man and a representative of Muziek Centrum Nederland.

After all participants will have had the opportunity to hear their work and record it at the end of the sketch period, this committee will choose the works to be performed during the Gaudeamus week 2009, and the ensuing concert in Utrecht.

Finally, we will select several works for Ensemble Gending's 2010 Indonesia tour, which will include a concert at Erasmus House in Jakarta.

Application

We invite beginning composers as well as experienced professionals to apply via info@gending.nl, on the condition that you haven't composed for gamelan before. Applications should contain a short C.V. of the participant and a motivation.

Location and timetable

The clinic will be given at the Utrechts Conservatorium (Faculty of Music)

February, March: registration and selection of composers

April

Fr. 3, 10-17 introduction: Jurrien Sligter, Jonás Bisquert, Roderik de Man, Klaus Kuiper
Fr. 10, 10-17 practicum: workshop gamelan coached by 3 musicians of Gending
Fr. 17, 10-13 lecture by composers, a.o. Jonás Bisquert
14-17 workshop gamelan coached by 3 musicians of Gending
Fr. 24, 10-13 repertoire, instrumentation
14-17 try out with players

May

Fr. 22, 10-17 try out of sketches with players of Gending
Su. 24, 10-17 try out of sketches with players of Gending

sketch period May 25 – June 12, coaching Jonás Bisquert

June

Sa. 13, 10-17 trials and reading rehearsal (Gending tutti)
Sa. 20, 10-17 trials and reading rehearsal (Gending tutti)
26/27/28, 10-17 conclusion of sketch period and recordings

July

Friday 4: committee will choose sketches to be elaborated on by the composers for concert performances

Writing period July 5 – August 14, coaching Jonás Bisquert

Delivery deadline for selected scores : August 15

Rehearsals August 27 – September 6

Performances September 7–13

- Première during International Gaudeamus Music Week
- Short workshops during Gaudeamus week for international company
Guest composer: Iwan Gunawan from Bandung, of *Kyai Fatahillah*
- Concert at t.b.a. venue in Utrecht: September – October 2009