GAMELAN TUNAS MEKAR PRESENTS

Music & Dance of Bali
Experience the beauty of Balinese performing arts

Based in Denver, Colorado, USA, Gamelan Tunas Mekar is a community orchestra under the direction of Balinese composer and Artist-in-Residence I Made Lasman. Since 1988, Tunas Mekar has presented the indigenous music of the island of Bali at music festivals, schools, private events, local venues, specially produced concerts, and by special invitation both internationally and nationally. Modeled after typical village groups found throughout Bali, and learning by traditional methods, Tunas Mekar provides American audiences the rare opportunity to experience one of the world’s most beautiful and sophisticated performing arts.

Tunas Mekar performances include the use of one or more of the four sets of instruments owned by the ensemble: the small, mobile gamelan angklung, which is traditionally used in Bali for temple ceremonies; the larger, fiery gong semaradana, which was created relatively recently in Bali for secular performances; the traditional ceng-ceng kopyak, a set of hand-held cymbals and drums; and the joged bumbung, which is comprised of bamboo resonators lying horizontally and tied to bamboo frames.

ABOUT BALINESE GAMELAN

Balinese gamelan music is highly rhythmic, utilizing various gongs, drums and metallophones (bronze bars, suspended over bamboo resonators, that are struck with wooden mallets) encased in ornate hand-carved jackfruit wood. The Sanskrit root of the word gamelan means “to hammer,” and it is truly powerful and exciting to hear 20 people “hammer” heavy bronze bars in synchronized rhythms, accompanied by the sweet sound of bamboo flutes over a foundation provided by large gongs.

REPERTOIRE

Tunas Mekar’s repertoire ranges from traditional pieces that have been handed-down by rote through generations of Balinese musicians to contemporary pieces written by the current generation of world-renown composers and choreographers. Balinese gamelan is a living art that is continually evolving. Gamelan Tunas Mekar is proud to be a part of this esteemed world music & dance tradition.

BOOK THE ENSEMBLE

Gamelan Tunas Mekar is available for private events, music festivals, concert series and schools. To learn more about how you can share this incredible once-in-a-lifetime experience with your audience, contact Michael Fitts at booking@tunasmekar.org or 720/504-3655.