

**For Immediate Release**

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# Awake Mountain

## Music and Dance of Bali

On May 9, 2016, Gamelan Tunas Mekar, under the direction of Artists-In-Residence I Made Lasmawan and Ni Ketut Marni, will present a program titled "Awake Mountain: Music & Dance of Bali," with guest Balinese artists: world renowned composer I Nyoman Windha; his wife, dancer Ni Gusti Agung Ayu Warsiki and dancer I Ngurah Kertayuda. Combining the power of ancient dance forms with the exotic sounds of the Balinese *gamelan*, Tunas Mekar, sponsored in part by the University of Denver Lamont School of Music, will feature the Colorado premiere of Windha's piece "Jagra Parwata" (awakening of the mountain) along with the "Oleg Tambulilingan" (courtship dance of the bumblebees) and "Baris" (male warrior dance), plus instrumental pieces performed using the modern *Gamelan Semaradana* orchestra, unique in that it incorporates multiple musical scales within one orchestra.

Pak Windha is one of Bali's premier composers and is widely-known for creating works that are admired for their melodic beauty. "Jagra Parwata" refers to "the awakening skills of young musicians in the mountain village of Munduk". He has taught music at Institut Seni Indonesia (the National Institute of the Arts) in Bali since 1982 and has participated in numerous international tours and festivals. Since 1983, he has created more than 70 original compositions, all of which have been performed by groups in Indonesia, the U.S. and Europe. Warsiki, a dance teacher in Indonesia, has accompanied her husband to the U.S. in support of his current fellowship at College of the Holy Cross. I Gusti Ngurah Kertayda has taught and performed traditional and modern dance and gamelan both nationally and internationally since the 1970s. From 1989 to 2012, he served as the artistic and choreographic dance director for the Indonesian Consulate General of Chicago.

This event takes place at Denver School of the Arts, 7111 Montview Blvd, Denver, CO 80220 (corner of Montview Blvd & Quebec St). Seating is limited so please purchase tickets in advance at [www.tunasmekar.org](http://www.tunasmekar.org) or come early to be assured of a seat. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, seniors and children. Reserve tickets for Will Call by calling Tunas Mekar at (720) 504-3655. Doors will open 30 minutes before show time and free parking is available.

*Gamelan Tunas Mekar*, founded in 1988, is a group of 20 musicians from the Colorado Front Range. Balinese *gamelan* music is highly rhythmic, utilizing various gongs, drums and metallophones (bronze bars suspended over bamboo resonators and struck with wooden mallets) which are 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.