



Gamelan Tunas Mekar
www.TunasMekar.org
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For Immediate Release

From Bali to Denver — Gamelan Tunas Mekar and World-Renown Balinese Dancer Dr. I Made Bandem Come Full Circle After 39 Years

On Saturday, May 9, 2015, at 7:30pm at the Denver School of the Arts in Denver, Gamelan Tunas Mekar, under the direction of artist-in-residence I Made Lasmawan, is honored to welcome special guest artists Dr. I Made Bandem and his wife, Dr. Ni Luh Nesa Swasti Wijaya Bandem, for a very special concert! This is a unique opportunity to see Tunas Mekar perform using both the gamelan angklung and semaradana instruments in one concert. Tunas Mekar will present a full evening of music and dance pieces including: *Kebyar Trompong* with Pak Bandem; *Puspanjali* (choreographed by Ni Swasti Bandem) featuring Ni Ketut Marni with Justice Miles; *Margapati* (the hungry tiger dance) performed by Ni Swasti Bandem; *Cilinaya* (choreographed by Bapak I Wayan Dibia) with guest dancers Putu Indira Sandika, Putu Laksmi Maquina and Vie Lim; the dynamic "Kreasi Baru" composition *Kosalya Arini* (composed by the late I Wayan Berata), I Made Lasmawan's composition *Tirta Bhuana*, and more.

WHEN: **May 9, 2015 - 7:30 pm**

WHERE: **Denver School of the Arts, 7111 Montview Blvd., Denver, CO 80220 - <http://dsa.dpsk12.org/>**

EVENT PAGE: <http://tunasmekar.org/special-event>

TICKETS: **\$20 Adults. \$10 Students/Seniors/Children under 12**
Purchase tickets online <http://tunasmekar.org/special-event> or by calling 720-456-7467

A Little History

In 1974, Colorado Women's College wrote and received a grant to obtain a Balinese gamelan for its music department. Ultimately, Pak Bandem was the one who located a beautiful set of old, unused instruments — from the region of Karangasem — that could be repaired and eventually shipped to CWC. The first class of Balinese gamelan instruction began at CWC in 1976, and the first concert was performed, on the same stage as this performance, at the then Houston Fine Arts Center. However, that's not the only connection to this famous artist. Tunas Mekar participated, by invitation of the Governor of Bali, at the 1996 International Bali Arts Festival in Denpasar. It was Pak Bandem who personally presented Tunas Mekar with a hand-carved Garuda (mythical bird) statue and a presenter's award, not even realizing that he was instrumental to "Gamelan Tunas Mekar's" existence. Thirty-nine years later, those same instruments, on the same stage (now Denver School of the Arts) will be featured in a concert with Pak Bandem as guest dancer. As well, his wife's choreographed piece, *Puspanjali* will be featured on the original *angklung* orchestra that he shipped to Colorado so many years ago!

This is a concert not to be missed — its history is rich; its music and dance mesmerizing.

Based in Denver, Colorado, USA, Gamelan Tunas Mekar is an all volunteer orchestra under the direction of Balinese composer and Artist-in-Residence I Made Lasmawan. The group presents the indigenous music and dance of the island of Bali, Indonesia, and has performed by special invitation across the US and internationally. Tunas Mekar performs regularly at music festivals, schools, private events and specially produced concerts throughout the Rocky Mountain region. Modeled after typical village groups found throughout Bali, and learning by traditional methods, this community ensemble provides American audiences with an authentic glimpse of one of the world's most fascinating cultures. Gamelan Tunas Mekar is sponsored in part by the University of Denver Lamont School of Music.

Press Photos available at www.tunasmekar.org/media-press-kit or upon request: newsletter@tunasmekar.org.

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