



Gamelan Tunas Mekar

For Immediate Release
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High Arts Asia: Music & Dance of Bali

Lunar New Year celebrations would not be complete without a one-of-a-kind concert of Asian music and dance. In collaboration with the Lamont School of Music, Gamelan Tunas Mekar, under the direction of artist-in-residence I Made Lasmawan, presents "High Arts Asia: Music & Dance of Bali" at the Newman Center's Gates Concert Hall on Thursday, February 2, 2017, 7:30PM. The event is FREE and open to the public.

The concert will feature special appearances by five of the finest Balinese musicians and dancers outside of Bali including I Ketut Gede Asnawa, Ni Ketut Marni, I Putu Tangkas Adi Hiranmayena, Ni Made Nias Yunirika and Ni Nyoman Nias Yonitika. The evening program will feature a processional *gamelan balaganjur*, the Colorado premier of mascot dance *Sekar Japun*, a rare performance of the notoriously virtuosic 21st century composition *Jagra Parwata*, a featured female dance *Teruna Jaya* which depicts a victorious male youth, and a traditional dance-drama in which a mythical lion-like creature fends off a meddling monkey.

Doors will open 30 minutes before the show. Free parking will be available in the Newman Center parking garage (entrance on E. Wesley Ave). The Newman Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2344 E Iliff Ave (corner of S University Ave & E Iliff Ave), Denver, CO 80210.

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 bronze 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." It is truly powerful and exciting to hear the sounds of synchronized rhythms on heavy bronze, sweet melodies on bamboo flutes and the strong foundation of large gongs. Our exceptional guest artists and challenging repertoire will make this concert one of the finest to date in Tunas Mekar's 28-year history.

Press photos and a downloadable press release are available at
www.tunasmekar.org/media-press-kit