Javanese Gamelan for Beginners

Supported by
Department of Southeast Asian Studies, NUS

The Javanese gamelan is the largest member of a family of Southeast Asian musical ensembles, and its beautiful music is one of the most complex in the world.

In Central Java, gamelan traditionally accompanies ceremonies, dance, and shadow puppet theatre performances. It is also played by itself at informal performances qua practices for the entertainment of both musicians and listeners.

In 4 lessons, participants will be introduced to the instrumental, dance and wayang kulit repertoires, and learn to play some of their basic songs.

Lessons are conducted on one of the largest Javanese gamelan sets in Singapore, which possesses a full range of instruments in both slendro and pelog tunings.

About the instructor:
Thow Xin Wei has been playing in the NUS Singa Nglaras Gamelan Ensemble since his undergraduate days at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Upon graduation, he undertook the Darmasiswa Scholarship provided by the Indonesian Ministry of Education, to study Javanese Gamelan in Surakarta, Central Java. This was further supported by Singapore’s National Arts Council Artist Professional Development Grant.

To date, Xin Wei has performed in weddings, wayangs and concerts both in Singapore and Indonesia. In 2011, he participated in Institut Teknologi Bandung’s International Javanese Gamelan Festival 2011 as a musician with Singapore’s Gamelan Asmaradana. He has also taught in several Javanese and Balinese gamelan workshops under their group.

Time : March 29, April 5, 12 and 19
19:30 – 21:30 (Thursday Evenings)

Venue : AS2, NUS Gamelan Room #02-01
(Between Coffee Club Xpress and LT11)

Fees : $70 for all 4 Lessons (Students/ NSF/ NUS Staff $50)
Payable at the first lesson

Min. 6 and Max. 15 participants on a first come, first served basis.
Registration by Email to orpheus84@gmail.com

Please register by 25 March 2012