

Swarthmore College Department of Music presents:

Gamelan Semara Santi and Indonesian Cultural Club of Delaware

Co-directed by

Lidya Darmawan, Ni Luh Kadek Kusuma Dewi, I Nyoman Suadin, and Thomas Whitman

Sunday November 22nd 2025: 3 PM, Lang Concert Hall



Program:

As is customary in Bali, we begin with offerings to ensure a successful performance.

- I. Gelang Soko Dance**
- II. Tabuh Sekar Eled**
- III. Puspanjali**
- IV. Kakang-kakang**
- V. Balinese Shadow Play Music: Pemungkah (excerpt)**
- VI. Joged**

About Balinese Music and Dance

The traditional performing arts of Bali, Indonesia, have played a central role in village life for centuries. Hindu-Balinese temple festivals are frequent, and the local community provides offerings to the gods, including special foods, elaborate decorations, music, theater, and dance. The performing arts are a common feature of life that require general participation. Many community members routinely play in the ensembles known as gamelan without special training in music.

The spiritual center of the gamelan is its large gong, which in older styles normally punctuates the texture at regular 8-, 16- or 32-beat intervals. The primary melody is located in the mid-range, played by the large bronze-keyed xylophone-like instruments (jegogan, calung, ugal). Ornamentation is provided by the smaller instruments (gangsa, reyong) and is typically designed in interlocking patterns that are executed in unison by several musicians, leaving little room for improvisation.

Some have asked about the carved swastika on the frame that holds one of our gongs. This symbol has been revered in South Asia and Southeast Asia for centuries among Hindus, Jains, and adherents of other traditions. Its associations include the sun and fertility; in general, it is an auspicious sign of good luck and harmony within a community. We display it in that spirit.

Musicians and Dancers of Gamelan Semara Santi

Adil Beken, Grace Chen, Melga Cipollone, Stella Cipollone, Quinn Collins, Ni Luh Kadek Kusuma Dewi, Lynne Elkins, Ming Gao, Smitha Haridasan, Bradley Holland, Sajid Kamal '25, Nadine Kaylor, Spencer Kennedy, Jon Kochavi, Paolo Leiva, Tripp Maloney, Celeste Pacia, Sydney Polinchock, Colette Speakman, Angelina Tjia, I Nyoman Suadin, Tom Whitman

Dancers of the Indonesian Cultural Club of Delaware

Brittany Coant, Sapphira Darmawan, Lidya Darmawan, May Daniels, Amelia Harjianto, Natalie Lucas, Susana Lucas, Lexy Street

Special thanks for **Professor Tyler Yamin and his students from Bucknell University:** Tanveer Deol, Brooke Griffin, Dillan Guinn-Bailey, Sasha Heistand, and William Napolitano. They travelled to Swarthmore in October and spent a day doing maintenance on our instruments, including retuning and restringing keys, as well as adjusting resonators.

Please use this QR code to access program notes and artist biographies:

