

**City St George's, University of London**  
**Music and Dance from Bali**  
**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 7pm**

### **Gamelan Lila Cita**

**Lila Bhawa** dancers

**Andy Channing** artistic director

**Ni Madé Pujawati** dance director

### **Balinese Gamelan**

Unlike the Western orchestra, in which percussion instruments often play a supportive role, the Balinese gamelan orchestra consists almost entirely of tuned bronze gongs and metallophones. These produce a fast and dynamic music characterised by complex interlocking melodic and rhythmic patterns, punctuated by sonorous gongs.

The type of gamelan being played tonight is *Gamelan Gong Kebyar* (*kebyar* means 'to flare up') which originated in North Bali around 1915 through experimentation with traditional forms and styles and came to dominate musical life in Bali. It accompanies many types of dance performance.

This set of instruments (named Lila Cita) was made in 1999 by I Made Gabeleran of Blahbatuh in South Bali. Elaborately carved and painted, with floral patterns, guardian demons and scenes from the Ramayana (a Sanskrit epic poem), it is the only gamelan of its kind in London. Tuned to a 5-note subset of the 7-tone *pelog* scale, it is owned by Xerxes Mazda and has been in residence here at City for 26 years.

In typical Balinese gamelan music, the larger metallophones play the core melody (*pokok*), which is punctuated by various gongs and embellished (with interlocking melodic and rhythmic patterns called *kotekan*) by the *gangsa* (smaller metallophones), *reyong* (a row of small gong-chimes) and *suling* (small bamboo flutes). The ensemble is led by a pair of drums (*kendang*), augmented by small cymbals (*ceng-ceng*).

## **Programme:**

### **Tabuh Telu Raré Manganti**

This piece was composed for Lila Cita by **I Nengah Susila** in 2011. *Tabuh Telu* takes the form of a classic *Lelambatan* (temple ceremonial) composition, derived from the ancient gamelan *Gong Gedé*. This framework is given a *kreasi* (new creation) treatment, not too far removed from the classic style. *Raré Manganti* means 'waiting for a baby or young child'. Pak Susila, surprised that so many members of Lila Cita were having babies, dedicated this composition "to these children, who are either waiting to become adults or waiting to be born".

### **Tari Pendet**

**Georgina Harding, Rachinta Platts, Eu Su Lynn, Ersaly Erwinputri** dancers

This is a traditional welcome dance, usually performed near the beginning of a programme by pairs of dancers carrying bowls of flower petals (*pendet* means 'to hold in the hand'). Developed from rites to honour the gods visiting a temple festival, the dance has been adapted to honour the guests at a performance.

### **Tari Cendrawasih**

**Andrea Rutkowski, R. Thesalonika Yulyanti** dancers

This popular dance was created in Denpasar in 1987, with music by I Nyoman Windha and I Wayan Beratha. The choreography, by Ni Luh Swasthi Wijaya Bandem, depicts the courtship dance of a pair of Birds of Paradise (*Cendrawasih*). The spectacular *Cendrawasih* bird is a cultural symbol of Indonesia.

### **Tabuh Lila Cita**

Composed by **Nye Parry**, who writes: *Tabuh Lila Cita* was commissioned for the group by two of its founder members in celebration of their wedding in 2001. Premiered in Newbury in 2003, we played it in Bali in 2006, where it was described as "like eating bread and finding honey!" In some ways it is my most 'gamelan-y' gamelan piece; however, it incorporates many features not generally found in Bali, such as canons, a 3/4-time signature, and some unusually independent parts making it somewhat tricky to learn! *Tabuh Lila Cita* is dedicated to the members of the group which has been such an important part of many of our lives for so long.

## **Tari Lègong Kreasi Mahawidya**

**Ni Madé Pujawati, Novie Cawley, Melissa Dewi de Weerd** dancers

*Lègong* is a genre of classical dance which originated in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century with a central repertoire of about 15 dances, with themes from a variety of sources, such as the Panji cycle (also known as Malat), the Ramayana epic, or stories about nature. The beauty of the *Lègong* dance lies in the integration of its movements and musical accompaniment.

*Lègong Mahawidya* (meaning 'Great Knowledge') was choreographed by Anak Agung Mas Sudarningsih in 2021. She wished to create a short *Lègong* which would be "simple, elegant and beautiful" by stressing the spirit and power of Ibu Pertiwi (or 'Mother Earth'), and nature in general. The music was composed (for digital gamelan) by Wahyu Etnica.

## **Tari Baris Tunggal**

**Tudé Praptika** dancer

There are more than 40 types of *Baris* dance, dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. *Baris* means 'line' or 'row' and refers to the military formations assumed by the dancers in ritual *Baris Gedé* (performed at temple festivals), from which *Bari Tunggal* ('solo' *Baris*) developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The dance represents, abstractly, the conduct of a warrior on the battlefield.

## **Biographies:**

**Gamelan Lila Cita** ('amusement of the heart' or 'happiness') was founded by Andy Channing in 1992. Several members have studied in Bali, and it is the only group in Britain that regularly performs a wide range of traditional and contemporary Balinese music. The group has played throughout the UK and abroad, including performances at Fundació la Caixa in Barcelona, St James's Palace, Royal Opera House, Münchner Stadtmuseum and Glastonbury Festival. Lila Cita even performed at the prestigious Bali Arts Festival in 2006.

Performing tonight: Andy Channing, Kaori Allenson, Gill Bland, Charlie Cawood, Margaret Coldiron, Debbie Fether, Mel Green, Daisy Heath, Robert Hills, Manuel Jimenez, Dawn Kelleher, Helen Loth, Kate Marrs-Gant, Jonathan Morgan, Nye Parry, John Pawson, Wil Procter, Innes Rock, Liz Routhorn, Emily Shapiro and John Whitfield.

**Andy Channing**, Artistic Director of Lila Cita, studied gamelan at the Southbank Centre and at STSI (now ISI, the Indonesian Academy of Performing Arts) Surakarta in Central Java and with various teachers in Bali. Since 1991 he has been teaching Balinese and Javanese gamelan throughout Europe, primarily at City St George's University of London, SOAS, the Southbank Centre and LSO St Luke's, and he has performed worldwide.

**Tudé Praptika** is from Peliatan, a renowned centre for arts and culture in Bali, and he has been dancing since the age of six. He is passionate about culture, tourism, resources and sustainability, and is currently pursuing his master's studies at UCL.

**Lila Bhawa** is a London-based Indonesian dance group specialising in classical dances from Bali and Java. The group was founded by Ni Madé Pujawati in 2002 and includes several experienced performers, together with younger dancers who started learning in the UK. Lila Bhawa performed with Lila Cita at the 2006 PKB (Bali Arts Festival).

**Ni Madé Pujawati**, Artistic Director of Lila Bhawa, started dancing at the age of six and is a graduate of ISI (the Institute of the Arts) in Denpasar. As well as performing with Lila Cita, she also performs virtuoso Javanese dance with Southbank Gamelan Players and cross-Asian dance roles with the Foundation of Indian Performing Arts. She has performed extensively in Europe, the US and Bali.

**Novie Cawley** was born in Jakarta and is a professional dancer, performing different Indonesian styles.

**Ersaly Erwinputri (Saly)** grew up in Jakarta and came to the UK to study for a master's degree in economics in 2020.

**Georgina Harding** was born in Jakarta and moved to the UK when she was young. She learned Balinese dance when visiting family in Indonesia.

**Eu Su Lynn** learned Balinese dance when she was at university in Colorado.

**Rachinta Platts** grew up in Indonesia and the south of England. She now works in London as an animator.

**Andrea Rutkowski** joined Lila Bhawa in 2009 and studied Indonesian dance for two years at ISI Surakarta.

**Melissa Dewi de Weerd** has a Dutch father and Chinese Indonesian mother but discovered Indonesian culture while studying World Performance at East 15 Acting School.

**R. Thesalonika Yulyanti** grew up in Jakarta but now lives and works in London.