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## World Music and Dance Concert

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**  
presents

***World Music and Dance Concert***

with  
**University of Richmond**  
**Global Music Ensemble and**  
**University Dancers**

**Ngoma, Gamelan Raga Kusuma**

**Featuring Ghanaian Master Drummer**  
**Abdallah Zablong Zakariah**

**Dr. Andrew McGraw**  
*Director*

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008—7:30 P.M.**  
**CAMP CONCERT HALL**  
**UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND**



## ***Program***

*[Approximately one hour, fifteen minutes]*

### ***Beleganjur, Processional:***

There are many forms of traditional processional music in Indonesia. The beleganjur has its roots in martial bands used to frighten one's enemies on the battlefield. Today the beleganjur is used in cremations, temple processions and in secular contests.

Global Music Ensemble (five minutes)

### ***Selisir, Gamelan Demonstration:***

The music of the Balinese gamelan is highly structured, following rules of orchestration and instrumentation not unlike those of the Western symphony orchestra. That the ensembles are community-based organizations is reflected in the communal nature of the musical structure and interdependence of musical lines. Gamelan is designed so that anyone can play it, but that no one can play it alone.

Global Music Ensemble (five minutes)

### ***Godeg Miring:***

Balinese seven-tone gamelan essentially disappeared in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when many local gamelan clubs melted down their instruments to re-fashion them into the then (and now) popular *gong kebyar* five-tone gamelan. This rare work for the full-seven tone ensemble was probably composed in the 14<sup>th</sup> century to accompany the *Gambuh* dance drama. This work's mysterious title means "slanted sideburns."

Global Music Ensemble (five minutes)

### ***Atsia-Agbekor:***

The Agbekor is an abstract warrior dance of the Anlo Ewe ethnic group of Southern Ghana in West Africa. This is the slow, stately version of the dance. The work is performed in an abbreviated form here as an instrumental piece. The hallmark 12/8 bell pattern of this work demonstrates the deep connections between African-American and West African music. Similar bell patterns are heard in many jazz standards.

Global Music Ensemble (five minutes)

***Dagomba Praise-Name Drumming Demonstration:***

The music and dance of the Dagomba ethnic group of Northern Ghana revolves around a complex form of talking drumming. Talking drums are hourglass-shaped drums whose pitch can be controlled by applying tension to leather tuning strings. The pitches and rhythms performed on the drums imitate the tonal Dagbani language. In traditional Dagomba culture drummers are responsible for memorizing and performing, both through song and drummed language, an immense repository of oral history in the form of genealogies, proverbs, praises and philosophy. As such Dagomba talking drummers are more than just drummers, they are historians, philosophers, social critics, lawyers *and* musicians.

Abdallah Zablong Zakariah (five minutes)

***Dagomba Processional and Damba:***

The birthday of the prophet Mohammed is celebrated among the Dagomba in a ceremony known as Damba. The festival includes long performances of music and dance, prayers, fasting and horseback riding. The music for Damba is performed on large ensembles of *lunna* talking drums and *gungon* bass-snare drums. The supporting talking drum chorus repeats the drummed phrase "Suhu pelli waa" meaning "dance of joy and happiness." The single lead talking drum performs a series of phrases describing the damba festival. We present both the Damba processional and the Damba dance proper in this performance.

Global Music Ensemble, University Dancers  
led by Abdallah Zablong Zakariah (eight minutes)

***Rejang:***

In Bali, the rejang is a class of traditional temple-offering dance, performed to invite the gods and earthly guests to a temple ceremony. This version was adapted from the rejang found in the village of Kuta by faculty at the Indonesian National Conservatory.

Gamelan Raga Kusuma (five minutes)

***Lengker:***

Similar to Godeg Miring, Lengker is an ancient gamelan work from the semar pegulingan repertoire. Semar Pegulingan is sometimes translated as the "Music of the Love-God;" this repertoire was historically performed to entertain the rajas in their slumber at court. This music has ancient, stately and romantic (if not erotic) connotations within Balinese culture.

Gamelan Raga Kusuma (seven minutes)

***Suara Sandi:***

Suara Sandi was composed by the renowned Balinese composer, I Nyoman Windha, as his undergraduate recital in 1986. The work explores the interaction between two modes within a single work and as such was experimental in the mid 1980s when seven-tone music was still a mostly forgotten relic of Bali's past.

Gamelan Raga Kusuma (eight minutes)

***Gahu:***

Gahu is a social dance of the Anlo-Ewe ethnic group of Southern Ghana. The piece is very similar to other social dances of the Yoruba in Nigeria from whom the Ewe likely adopted and adapted the work as they migrated from the Southern-Eastern region of West Africa into Ghana approximately 200 years ago. Gahu is an up-tempo dance piece that incorporates another bell pattern that has a long history in African-American popular music; in America this rhythm is often called the "Bo-Diddly Beat."

Ngoma Dancers, Global Music Ensemble  
led by Abdallah Zablong Zakariah (seven minutes)

*End*

## *Gamelan*

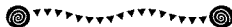
'Gamelan' refers to the traditional orchestras found on the islands of Java and Bali within the Indonesian archipelago. The music typically accompanies theater and dance performance or serves as an acoustic offering within Balinese Hindu temple ceremonies. Above all, gamelan is about community. Ensembles are often owned by community organizations, and performers are drawn from the community at large.

The University of Richmond's gamelan was made by the renowned gong-smith Pande Sukerta, whose team of craftsmen spent five months forging the instruments and carving the cases before the set was placed on a cargo ship for the three-month journey to New York harbor.

## *Dagomba and Ewe Drums*

The University of Richmond's newly acquired Ewe and Dagomba drum ensembles were commissioned and constructed in Ghana in the summer of 2008.

Abdallah Zablong Zakariah personally constructed the Dagomba drums by hand. The shells are constructed of West African hardwoods, and the heads are of both goat (for the Dagomba drums) and antelope (for the Ewe drums) skin.



## *Performers*

### ***Global Music Ensemble:***

Naomi Benoit, LeahBeth Cherney, Ari Corson, Nicholas Craft, Tiara Davis, Lindsay Foss, Andrea Hague, Adam Hake, Kathryn Hoskins, Kevin Howley, Matthew Jordon, Alex Kelly, Alex MacConochie, Carly Vendegna-Ramirez, Alex Smith, Akira Suzuki, Julia Zweller.

### ***University Dancers:***

Jenna Landers, Lauren Milam, Leigh Ann West.

### ***Ngoma***

### ***Gamelan Raga Kusuma:***

Naomi Benoit, Taylor Burton, Paul Fleisher, Derrick Gregory, Stuart Jackson, Brian Larson, Joe Lattuada, Danny Martin, Elizabeth Mastropierro, Andrew McGraw, Becky Nelson, Brandon Phillips, Melissa Salyk, Audrey Short, Julie Sidharta, Daniel Smither, Connie Tuttle, Ellington Wall, Lee Wall, Jessica Zike.

## ***Upcoming Performances***

**Friday, December 5, 7:00-9:00 PM.**

Join us for Indonesian and West African music and dance at First Fridays Downtown! Richmond Public Library, 101 East Franklin.



## **THANK YOU**

***to the University of Richmond Music, Dance, Theater and Religion Departments, Office of International Education, Modlin Center for the Arts and the University of Richmond Cultural Affairs Council.***

## *Directors*

**Andrew Clay McGraw** is an assistant professor of music and ethnomusicology at the University of Richmond. He has studied traditional and experimental music in Bali and Java during several years of residence in Indonesia. He completed his Ph.D. on experimental music in Indonesia at Wesleyan University in 2005. He has studied Ghanaian drumming since 1996 under David Locke, Godwin Agbeli, Abubakari Lunna, Francis Akotuah and Abdallah Zablong Zakariah.

**Abdallah Zablong Zakariah** is a professor at the Institute for African Studies at the University of Ghana in Legon, Accra. He has been an active performer and administrator for the Ghanaian Dance Ensemble in which he studied and performed the music and dance of several Ghanaian ethnic groups. He is a master drummer of the Dagomba tradition and actively performs in Dagomba ceremonies both in Accra and in Northern Ghana. His research focuses on Dagomba oral traditions, and he is currently a visiting artist-scholar at the University of Richmond.

### *Play World Music!*

Spaces are open in Richmond's own community-based Balinese gamelan ensemble, Raga Kusuma. The large orchestra of hand-made gongs, chimes, drums, flutes and fiddles is designed to accommodate a wide range of musical abilities and interests. Beginners welcome, no previous musical experience necessary. Free and open to the public. Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. in BB117 in Booker Hall, University of Richmond.

UR students can study West African and Indonesian music for FSVP credit in the Global Music Ensemble, MSEN 230. Times flexible, *no prior musical experience necessary*. For more information call 287-1807 or email [amcgraw@richmond.edu](mailto:amcgraw@richmond.edu). During the spring 2008 semester the ensemble will be guest-directed by Indonesian master dancer, musician and shadow puppeteer I Madé Sidia of the Indonesian National Conservatory.

*Program notes by Andrew McGraw*



**FALL 2008 – SPRING 2009**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC FREE EVENTS**  
**Camp Concert Hall, unless otherwise noted**

*Fall 2008*

**Family Weekend Concert**

Fri, Sept 19 – 7:30p

**“Music and Torture”**

Suzanne G. Cusick,  
*musicologist*

Sun, Oct 5 – 3p

**Brian Jones & Friends**

Sun, Oct 5 – 7:30p

**Duo-Piano Recital**

Richard Becker, piano  
Doris Wylee-Becker, piano  
Sun, Oct 26 – 3p

**Schola Cantorum and  
University Women’s Chorale**

Sun, Nov 2 – 3p

**Third Practice Electro**

**Acoustic Music Festival**

Fri, Nov 7-  
Sat, Nov 8

**David Esleck Trio**

Thurs, Nov 13 – 7:30p  
Perkinson Recital Hall

**University Wind Ensemble**

Sun, Nov 16 – 7:30p

**University Jazz Ensemble and  
Jazz Combo**

Mon, Nov 24 – 7:30p

**University Chamber**

**Music Ensembles**

Mon, Dec 1 – 7:30p

**University Orchestra**

Wed, Dec 3 – 7:30p

**Global Music Ensemble**

Thurs, Dec 4 – 7:30p

**Annual Christmas**

**Candlelight Service**

Sun, Dec 7 – 5 & 8p  
Cannon Memorial Chapel

*Spring 2009*

**Schubert’s Winterreise**

James Weaver, baritone  
Joanne Kong, piano  
Mon, Jan 19 – 7:30p

**“Music in Times of Civil Unrest”**

Richmond Symphony  
Schola Cantorum  
James River Singers  
Fri, Jan 30 – 7:30p

**Richard Becker, piano**

Sun, Feb 1 – 3p

**“The Magnanimity of  
President Abraham Lincoln”**

William Lee Miller,  
speaker  
University Orchestra  
Thurs, Feb 12 – 7:30p

**Doris Wylee-Becker, piano**

Fri, Feb 20 – 7:30p

**“Scintillating Centenarians”**

Mon, Feb 23 – 7:30p

**“Madrigals of Love & War”**

Mon, Mar 16 – 7:30p

**University Wind Ensemble**

Sun, Apr 4 – 7:30p

**Schola Cantorum and**

**University Women’s Chorale**

Sun, Apr 5 – 3p

**University Jazz and**

**Brazilian Combo**

Mon, Apr 6 – 7:30p

**University Orchestra**

Wed, Apr 8 – 7:30p

**University Chamber**

**Music Ensembles**

Thurs, Apr 9 – 7:30p

**University Jazz Ensemble and  
Jazz Combo**

Mon, Apr 13 – 7:30p

**World Music Concert**

Sun, Apr 19 – 3p  
Jenkins Greek Theater