



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 18, 2008

**CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PRESENTS
CROSSING BOUNDARIES WITH GAMELAN PACIFICA**

SEATTLE, WA – The Cornish Music Series presents *Crossing Boundaries with Gamelan Pacifica* in two performances this February. Gamelan Pacifica, directed by Cornish Faculty member Jarrad Powell, will be joined by special guest **Undang Sumarna**, renowned Indonesian musician in the Sundanese style of gamelan. The performance will also feature piano soloist **Adrienne Varner** in the Northwest Premiere Lou Hairsion's *Concerto for Piano and Gamelan*. Gamelan performers include Jesse Snyder, Michelle Doiron, Stephen Fandrich, Cynthia Dillard, Stephen Parris, Ted Gill, Adrienne Varner, Deena Manis, Jill Lambson-Nirk, Astrid Vinje, and Maeg O'Donoghue Williams. Please note that free parking is available for all Cornish Music Series events.

**Gamelan Pacifica: Crossing Boundaries
presented by the Cornish Music Series**

Friday, February 15, 8 pm

Saturday, February 16, 8 pm

PONCHO Concert Hall

Tickets: \$15 general, \$7.50 students, alumni, and seniors

Tickets can be purchased through Ticket Window at 206.325.6500, www.ticketwindowonline.com, or in person at Ticket Window's box offices located at Pacific Place, Pike Place Market, Broadway Market and Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center.

Many different styles of gamelan music exist in the world today, from the traditional styles found in Indonesia to contemporary compositions from the international gamelan scene. While the Central Javanese and Balinese styles of gamelan are the ones most commonly heard outside of Indonesia, there are rich traditions from other parts of Indonesia as well. This concert will feature pieces from Central Java and from the Sundanese tradition of West Java. Joining Gamelan Pacifica will be renowned Sundanese musician Undang Sumarna. Crossing the boundaries of gamelan style even further, Gamelan Pacifica will present the Northwest Premiere of the Concerto for Piano and Gamelan by the great American composer Lou Harrison. Harrison preferred to call himself a "world musician" rather than a western composer, and understood earlier than most how his music could be viewed from a more global perspective. The Harrison premiere will feature young Seattle pianist, and Cornish alumna, Adrienne Varner. Varner is a regular member of Gamelan Pacifica and brings to the performance a special understanding of gamelan music rare among piano soloists.

BIOGRAPHIES OF PRINCIPLE PERFORMERS

Gamelan Pacifica. Originally formed in 1980, Gamelan Pacifica was among the innovators in developing the resources to create and perform gamelan music in the U.S. Gamelan Pacifica has performed extensively in the Pacific Northwest, as well as Canada and other parts of the U.S and is among the finest ensembles devoted to the performance of music for gamelan in the U.S. It is an active and adventurous ensemble, with a reputation for creating diverse productions merging traditional and contemporary musical forms with dance, theater, puppetry, and visual media.

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Visiting artists have included some of the most notable artists of Indonesia, including Purbo Asmoro, Didik Nini Thowok, Sri Djoko Rahardja, I Made Sidia, Endo Suanda, A.W. Sutrisno, Goenawan Mohamad, and Tony Prabowo. Gamelan Pacifica has been a guest performer on the Smithsonian Institute's Festival of Indonesia, New Music Across America Festival, Vancouver New Music Society, On the Boards, Walker Art Center, Performing Arts Chicago, and many others. Gamelan Pacifica has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation and Arts International. Gamelan Pacifica is currently supported in part by sustaining funds from the Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs and 4Culture. Gamelan Pacifica is a professional ensemble-in-residence at Cornish College of the Arts and is directed by Professor Jarrad Powell. www.gamelanpacifica.org

Undang Sumarna was born into a musical family in the city of Bandung, the capital of West Java. As a small boy he learned to play gamelan under the tutelage of his grandfather, the renowned Abah Kayat. He had already mastered the complex art of Sundanese drumming by his early twenties, when he was chosen to teach Sundanese music at the Center for World Music in San Francisco, California. Several years later, he was appointed Lecturer in Music at UC Santa Cruz, where over the past twenty years he has introduced hundreds of UC students to Sundanese music and dance and directed many ambitious music, dance, and theatre productions. Over the years, Undang has expanded his expertise to include Sundanese dance and wayang, degung, angklung, and other musical genres, as well as music and dance from Cirebon. Undang has also taught at KOKAR Bandung, UCLA, and San Jose State University; he performs regularly in the United States with Sundanese ensembles Pusaka Sunda and Sekar Asih.

Jarrad Powell has been composing, performing, and teaching in Seattle for more than twenty years. His compositions have been performed internationally and include numerous pieces for voice, gamelan, various western and non-western instruments, and electro-acoustic music. His work also includes numerous cross-cultural collaborations, particularly with Indonesian artists. He has been directing Gamelan Pacifica since the early 1980's. Under his direction the group has become one of the leading proponents of Javanese gamelan in the U.S. He has collaborated with noted choreographer Mary Sheldon Scott for more than a decade through their company Scott/Powell Performance. Their most recent work, *Geography*, had its premiere at On the Boards this past November. He has received numerous grants and awards, including the Artist Trust Fellowship in music composition. He is also a grantee of New York's Creative Capital Foundation. His most recent recordings, *Natural Selection* and *Stonehouse Songs* are available from Present Sounds Recordings. He is a currently a professor at Cornish College of the Arts.

To request images or receive additional information on the Cornish College of the Arts Spring Events Calendar, please contact Meike Kaan or Beth Fleenor (see info above) or visit www.cornish.edu.

About Cornish College of the Arts

Cornish College of the Arts, founded by Nellie Cornish in 1914, provides aspiring artists with the educational opportunities to become professionals in their fields. The College offers Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Art, Dance, Design, Performance Production and Theater, and a Bachelor of Music degree. It is one of three private colleges in the United States focusing on both the performing and visual arts, and the only college of its kind in the Northwest. The College is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

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