



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GAMELAN PACIFICA AND FRIENDS

With special guest artists Hossein Omoumi, I Wayan Sinti & Cocorda istri Milawati, Rubina & Marcos Carmona, Sutrisno Hartana & Anis Wiji Astuti, and Jessika Kenney

SEATTLE, WA – On Friday and Saturday, November 19th and 20th Cornish College of the Arts presents a concert of *Gamelan Pacifica and Friends*. The “friends” in this case, are a remarkable group of guest performers, with a special emphasis on vocal music. In its 25 year history Gamelan Pacifica has championed world music, focusing on the presentation of music for Javanese gamelan and sponsoring various cross-cultural collaborations in music, theater and dance. Now for this concert they bring together a wonderful group of musicians to share the music of several distinct traditions, giving the audience the opportunity to experience a variety of world music and to compare and contrast various vocal styles. The concert will feature the great Persian singer and ney* player, Hossein Omoumi, the flamenco artists Rubina and Marcos Carmona, renowned Balinese artists I Wayan Sinti and Cokorda Istri Nilawati, Javanese performers Sutrisno Hartana & Anis Wiji Astuti, and the remarkable young Seattle singer Jessika Kenney. The concert will feature each artist in his or her own musical style. In addition, Gamelan Pacifica’s full Javanese gamelan ensemble will also perform. The concert will be **under the direction of Seattle composer and Cornish College of the Arts professor Jarrad Powell**.

This concert will feature performances of Indonesian art forms including: *sindhengan*, Javanese classical singing; *Arja*, Balinese opera; and *Janger*, a traditional dance form that first appeared in the 1920s.

* Hossein Omoumi will play the *ney*, a breathy, atmospheric end blown flute.

Gamelan Pacifica and Friends

Friday, November 19 at 8 pm; Saturday, November 20 at 8 pm

PONCHO Concert Hall, Cornish College Capitol Hill Campus, 710 East Roy Street, Seattle

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Tickets: \$15; \$7.50 for students and seniors; free to the Cornish College community.

Tickets can be purchased through Ticket Window at 206.325.6500, www.ticketwindowonline.com

or in person at Ticket Window’s box offices located in the Pike Place Market, Harvard Market, and Bellevue’s Meydenbauer Center.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Rubina Carmona began studying flamenco dance in her native San Francisco, California with the legendary singer-dancer Isa Mura in the mid 1960s. She quickly realized her affinity for flamenco singing. She went to Spain in 1965, where she not only studied with Madrid's well-known teaching team, Mercedes and Albano Leon, but was referred by them to the cantaor Bernardo de los Lobitos, and spent an extended period working with him as well. On a return stay in Spain she studied briefly with Ciro and she and her husband Marcos received a contract to work in Alicante for the summer in the tablao "El Zorongo", owned by the father-in-law of guitarist Enrique Melchor, whose entire Gypsy family worked at the tablao. In 1988, the Carmonas relocated from California to Seattle, Washington, where they have resided ever since. They formed Carmona Flamenco, and began performing regularly with dancer Ana Montes and concert and cabaret venues in the Puget Sound area. They performed at the Allegro Dance Festival for a number of years, helped to inaugurate the ArtsWest and Music Northwest organizations, and have been performing for the last few years at the Kirkland Performance Center. During this time, Rubina has been constantly developing her skills as both singer and dancer, and as teacher and choreographer. She is the creator and artistic director of La Peña Flamenca de Seattle, a community based group of aficionados and emerging professionals who perform regularly in Seattle. She maintains a rigorous schedule of teaching, rehearsing and performing with both the professional group Carmona Flamenco and La Peña.

Marcos Carmona began his studies in San Francisco, California. He soon moved to Spain, where he and his wife Rubina immersed themselves in the flamenco life of several small towns in the province of Sevilla. While in Spain he became studio guitarist for Matilde Coral where he had the opportunity to rehearse with many of the notable dancers, singers and guitarists (Rafael Negro, Chano Lobato, El Rubio, Manuela Carrasco, Pepa Coral) working in Sevilla. He studied with Rafael Mendiola and Diego Amador, both being hot Cuadro guitarists. He played in the Feria de Sevilla, Feria de Huelva, Sevilla's La Venta de Antequera, as well as in Tablaos (flamenco night clubs) in Valencia and Benidorm. Upon their return to the United States he and Rubina moved to Los Angeles, where they immediately began working and teaching. They appeared at the two flamenco clubs, El Cid and El Matador, and performed numerous concerts and lecture demos. Highlights in Marcos' career include six years as house guitarist for El Cid, appearing with Paco de Lucia at the Los Angeles Music Center and giving a concert at the Los Angeles' Olympics.

Sutrisno Hartana is one of Java's most accomplished gamelan musicians. He is celebrated as both a teacher and performer. His training includes traditional Javanese music, dance, singing, shadow puppetry, and new music composition. His tours in Asia, Europe and North America have included lecture demonstrations, workshops and performances. He is currently teaching in Canada at the School for the Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Jessika Kenney has been singing since she was a small child. Early on, she was influenced by the musicality and interests of her mother, Paige Kenney, a poet. She studied jazz music/improvisation at Cornish College of the Arts and *sindhenan* (Javanese classical singing) in Central Java. She has performed with Gamelan Pacifica for nine years. In recent years she has performed in Iceland, Italy and Spain as well as in Seattle, New York City, Spokane and in the Bay area. She is inspired by her teachers, who include Jay Clayton, Nyi Madu Laras, Nyi Supadmi, Musliwardinal, Rubina Carmona, and recently Hossein Omoumi and I Wayan Sinti. Her versatility and love of many forms has contributed to the realms of dance-theater, performance art, shadow puppetry, and experimental music. Currently she is experiencing tuning theory by singing with the Seattle Harmonic Voices. She is also involved in recording the vocal music of Jarrad Powell, excerpts of *Atalanta Fugiens* with Eyvind Kang, and vocals for ambient-metal ASVA.

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Hossein Omoumi, who plays the Persian *Ney* and also sings, is considered the most gifted performer of Persian music of his generation. Highly knowledgeable about *radif* and the secrets of the reed flute, his "quasi alchemist" approach to music expresses fluidity and demonstrates accomplishment. He has performed with many great artists and masters of his generation and his music is widely available. Kereshmeh Records, Nimbus Records and Alsur have released several of his albums throughout the world. Hossein Omoumi has been invited to give presentations and workshops at many distinguished universities such as UCLA's Department of Ethnomusicology, Wales University and Sorbonne University. He performs to sold-out concerts when he performs at such prestigious venues as the San Francisco World Music Festival 2000 and 2001, The Getty Center, Schoenberg Hall at UCLA, the Modern Arts Center in San Francisco, the Theatre de la Ville in Paris, and the World Music Center in New York. He has been featured as the *Ney* soloist in the soundtrack of the movie "The Sweet Hereafter" which won several awards at the 1997 Cannes International Film Festival.

I Wayan Sinti is among the most important Balinese musicians. He is known worldwide for his compositions for various styles of Balinese ensembles. He has been instrumental in reviving various neglected performance practices that had been forgotten in Bali since the turn of the 20th Century. In 1994 he created a new type of gamelan ensemble called *Manikasanti*, which allows for the playing of various Balinese modes and musical styles, and was inspired by his long study of ritual vocal and instrumental music. He has performed and taught throughout the world, including the seminal Center for World Music program in Berkeley. He is currently teaching Balinese vocal music and *gamelan gambuh* at the University of Washington School of Music.

Cokorda istri Nilawati was born in the village of Singapadu in Bali. She is accomplished in the forms of Balinese opera (*Arja*) and *Janger*, a traditional dance form that first appeared in the 1920s. She received her formal training at KOKAR, the conservatory for the performing arts in Denpasar, graduating in 1970. In 1970 she married I Wayan Sinti. They have five children and four grandchildren, all talented dancers and musicians. From 1978-1981 she accompanied Pak Sinti to the U.S. and taught Balinese dance at San Francisco State. She has performed around the world and is currently in residence at the University of Washington where Pak Sinti is teaching Balinese vocal music and *gamelan gambuh*.

Gamelan Pacifica has performed extensively in the Pacific Northwest, as well as Canada and other parts of the U.S. Originally formed in 1980, Gamelan Pacifica 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. Visiting artists have included some of the most notable artists of Indonesia, including Didik Nini Thowok, Sri Djoko Rahardja, I Made Sidia, Endo Suanda, A.W. Sutrisno, Goenawan Mohamad, and Tony Prabowo. They have been guest performers at The Smithsonian Institute's Festival of Indonesia, New Music Across America Festival, Vancouver New Music Society, On the Boards, the Walker Art Center, Performing Arts Chicago, and many others. Gamelan Pacifica's CD, *Trance Gong*, has received international acclaim and is available from O.O. Discs. In addition to sponsoring the Javanese gamelan ensemble, Gamelan Pacifica is a well-respected non-profit arts organization. Gamelan Pacifica has been the recipient of numerous grants, 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. For more information or to contact Gamelan Pacifica please visit www.gamelanpacifica.org. Gamelan Pacifica is **directed by noted composer and Cornish College of the Arts Professor Jarrad Powell**.

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ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Cornish College of the Arts is the premier, accredited arts college in the Northwest, inspiring the highest standards of artistic and academic excellence. Founded in 1914 by Nellie Cornish, Cornish College is the only private, accredited college in the region offering baccalaureate degrees in visual and performing arts. Cornish College offers a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, dance, design, theater and performance production. Uniquely, Cornish College provides a rigorous educational environment for the cultivation of technical mastery, artistic integrity and practical knowledge. The faculty at Cornish is comprised of practicing master artists and professional educators, renowned in their respective fields. The college maintains a low student to faculty ratio, allowing for individualized teaching and mentoring. Cornish College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Over the years, Cornish has hosted a parade of important artists in the roles of students, teachers or as visiting artists-in-residence, including John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Ping Chong, Kenny Werner, Obo Addy, Mark Morris, Meredith Monk, Rinde Eckert, Bebe Miller, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, Robin Holcomb, Chet Huntley, Syvilla Fort, Ralph Towner, Thornton Wilder, Lou Harrison, Bill Frisell, Morris Graves, Jane Ira Bloom, Kraig Patterson, Musicians Accord, Bun Ching Lam, Brendan Fraser, Myra Melford, Sharon Isbin, Joanne Brackeen, Oliver Lake, California Ear Unit, Colorado Quartet, and Gary Peacock, among others.

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