Abstract

Statement: Balinese Gamelan Music can be performed anywhere in Bali.

Indonesia is the home of the *gamelan* (pronounced Gah-Meh-Lahn). The name gamelan comes from the Hindu Javanese word "gambel", which means "to play". Gamelan is also the collective name given to a set of percussion instruments (mainly tuned gongs and metallophones) which together make up a gamelan ensemble. There are many different styles of Balinese gamelan music, performed on different occasions. Appendix A gives a description of the different styles of Balinese gamelan music. While the quote by Zoete gives an idea of the setting for Balinese gamelan music performances. However, to what extent is it true that Balinese gamelan music can be performed anywhere in Bali? Are there specific settings for specific gamelan performances? This essay attempts to explore the setting and the purpose of gamelan music in Bali, including the types of spaces for performances and the relationship between the performers, audience and music. Where applicable, comparison between Balinese gamelan (orchestra) and Western orchestra is made for better understanding. Appendix B gives a general comparison between Balinese and Western music. Conclusions drawn may provide a background for future development of the setting when extending gamelan performances to other countries. What is of value here will be the understanding of the relationship between Balinese gamelan music and its setting.