The Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, in its 50th Anniversary Year, presents

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on the
MALAY MUSICAL ARTS OF INDONESIA’S RIAU ISLANDS

Theme: Sound, Body Movement, Drama and Hierarchy in the Malay World/ Suara,
Gerak Tubuh, Drama dan Hirarki dalam Seni Musik Kepulauan Riau

Date: Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th January, 2015

Place: The Music Auditorium, Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Clayton Campus,
Monash University, Melbourne

Actress Uci Saptarini in her princess’ costume making up the face of one of her ladies-in-waiting before a mendu theatre performance on Bunguran Island, Natuna, Riau Islands Province, 20 January 2013. Photo: Karen Kartomi Thomas.
BACKGROUND:
The Symposium will investigate sound, body movement, drama, hierarchy and socio-historical context in the musical arts of (i) the mainly Muslim Malays who live on the more accessible, partly industrialising islands of the Riau archipelago (Kepri) and (ii) the Orang Suku Laut/Sea Nomads living in areas that are relatively untouched by modernisation. Both the sedentary and the sea-nomadic Malays are heirs to the arts of the Riau-Lingga-Johor & Pahang kingdom (its official name in the Riau Islands) which formerly covered the present-day province of Kepri. The kingdom traces its heritage back to Bukit Siguntang (Siguntang Hill) in the 7th century CE, followed by its subsequent re-locations in Bintan, Singapore, Melaka, Johor, Pahang and Daik-Lingga, including that of the Viceroy at Penyengat from the mid- to late-18th century until 1911. The Symposium will adopt an across-the-arts approach in its study of the styles and syntax of the music, dance, theatre, bardic arts, martial arts, and popular commercial arts in relation to the Kepri people's history; lifestyles; royal Malay heritage; religious, socio-political and gender ideologies, and the sustainability of the arts.

The First International Symposium on this theme was held in Tanjungpinang (capital of Kepri Province) from 15-17 January, 2013. Margaret Kartomi, Manolete Mora, Geoffrey Benjamin and Cynthia Chou and several associate researchers have been working on this Australia Research Council (ARC)-funded project from late 2012.

SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES:
The Symposium aims: (i) to rediscover and map the performing arts treasures of the Riau Islands’ performing arts (ii) to demonstrate the relationships between Kepri’s history, society, adat, and performing arts (iii) to explore the relationships between the sounds and body movements of Kepri’s musicians, dancers, actors and poets and their audiences, and as expressions of the hierarchy and power or powerlessness and anomie felt by members of the respective social classes (iv) to investigate the peoples’ efforts to revive, expose and develop their traditional arts (v) to study Kepri’s popular commercial arts, and (iv) to delineate Kepri’s artistic distinctiveness in the greater Malay world.

EXHIBITION:
A special Exhibition of Indonesia’s Malay Arts will be officially opened at a reception by the Consul-General of Indonesia, Ibu Dewi Savitri Wahab, on Wednesday 14th January from 4-5pm. The Exhibition will be open to the public from 14-28th January 2015. The Exhibition is presented by the Music Archive of Monash University (MAMU) and the Museum of Indonesian Arts (MIA) Inc.

SPEAKERS:
Barabara Andaya, Leonard Andaya, Harry Aveling, Geoffrey Benjamin, Cynthia Chou, Aaron Corn, Marion D’Cruz, Abdulkadir Ibrahim, Supriyadi Hasanin, David Irving, Margaret Kartomi, Bronia Kornhauser, Nicholas Long, Jennifer McCallum, Patricia Matusky, Manolete Mora, Mohd Anis Md Nor, Ari Palawi, Ibub Pudentia, Jacqueline Pugh-Kitingan, Lawrence Ross, Brigitta Scarfe, Karen Kartomi Thomas, Noorashikin Zulkifli and Jamal Mohamad.

VIDEO OF PROCEEDINGS:
Mr David Sheehy, a professional photographer and video editor, will make a video of the Symposium and Exhibition.

INTERPRETER:
Dr Tuti Gunawan, Monash University.
WELCOME BY THE SYMPOSIUM CONVENER,  
PROFESSOR MARGARET KARTOMI AM FAHA DR PHIL

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Monash University’s Clayton Campus for this event, which is the second in a series of Symposia on the hitherto neglected research topic of the music, dance, martial arts and theatre of Indonesia’s Riau Islands Province and the Malay World more generally.

The event is the first in a year of celebrations to mark the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music's 50th Anniversary of its Foundation in 1965.

I hope you will enjoy the presentations by around 20 scholars from Australia, Denmark, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, UK and USA and the ancillary events, including the Exhibition of Malay Arts in the Music Auditorium and Foyer which is presented by the Music Archive of Monash University and the Museum of Indonesian Arts.

There are various cafes and restaurants on campus, including in the Campus Centre, under the Library, and the Menzies Building (ground floor), but we are planning to walk across the road to Monash Sports Centre’s Café for lunches.

I hope you will take the opportunity after the Symposium to see something of Melbourne, deemed to be one of the world’s most livable cities, and the beautiful countryside.

Enjoy!

WELCOME BY THE CHANCELLOR OF MONASH UNIVERSITY,  
DR ALAN SIMON FINKEL AO PHD FTSE FIE AUST

The beauty and distinctiveness of the arts of Java and Bali are well-known around the world. What is less well known is that Indonesia’s unique Malay arts are equally beautiful!

Stemming from the cradle of Malay-Indonesian civilisation – the Riau Islands (more fondly known as Kepri), West Kalimantan and the Malay Peninsula – Indonesia’s unique Malay arts are yet to be discovered outside the area. Till now, most ethnomusicological and other artistic scholarship on the musical arts of the Malay world have focussed on Malaysia, where the Malay-speaking people practice partly similar arts to those of the Riau Islands, though in many locally varying ways.

As Professor Leonard Andaya, today’s keynote speaker has said, the Malay culture cannot be defined by modern national borders. There are many hitherto unexplored or underexplored Malay-speaking areas in Indonesia that need to be researched to complete our knowledge of the arts of the Malay World of
Southeast Asia. This symposium, the second in a series, will explore the little known arts of Indonesia’s Riau Island Province, which comprises 3,200 islands, includes two historically important palaces with their own arts, and contains five artistically distinct archipelagos! I can see from the program that there will also be an intense review of related areas of Indonesia’s Malay world such as West Kalimantan, where there were once 20 Malay palaces, and Minahasa, the northern coast of Sulawesi.

Some papers will examine Malayness in the arts associated with Islam, while others will deal with arts that have such ancient origins that they are pre-Islamic – such as Mendu theatre in North East Kepri, whose theatrical stage must be on the ground, not a floor, and must contain a spiritually powerful tree. The history of musical, dance and theatrical relations between the Riau Islands palaces and related palaces in the Malay Peninsula will be another theme.

Clearly, this symposium will take research into the Malay performing arts into new exciting directions. Outside in the exhibition area you will find 250 objects of Kepri’s arts plus selections from surrounding areas. This wonderful exhibition will be formally launched this afternoon by Ibu Dewi Savitri Wahab, the Indonesian Consul-General for Victoria and Tasmania. As you peruse this exhibition it is likely that you will be able to match up some of the objects and some films to be shown later in the symposium with materials to be presented in the symposium papers by specialist researchers who have come to Monash from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, United States, Denmark and Australia.

As Chancellor of Monash University I am very pleased that this symposium has been made possible under the auspices of an Australian government grant in which our very own Professor Margaret Kartomi is one of the two chief investigators. Margaret has worked closely with colleagues from the University of New South Wales to not only undertake the research but to communicate the research results through this and the previous symposium that was held on location, in the Riau Islands, two years ago.

Monash University has a long history of working to build cultural understanding between Australian and Indonesia. This started with the now famous Professor Herb Feith who taught and researched at Monash University from 1962, our second year of existence. Our commitment and expertise was recognized two years ago through the launch of the Australia-Indonesia Research Centre located at and led by Monash University. This week’s symposium exemplifies the ambition of Monash University to do research that is meaningful and builds community understanding and relationships.
SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Wednesday 14th January

8.30: Registration, tea, coffee

Welcome and Launch of the 2015 Symposium

9.15 - 9.45: Welcome by the Symposium Convener Professor Margaret Kartomi and Incoming Head of the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music, Professor John Griffiths FAHA.

Launch of the Symposium by Dr Alan Simon Finkel AO PhD FTSE FIE Aust, Chancellor of Monash University.

Performance of the Serampang Duabelas ("Twelve Steps") dance by the Malay Dance Group (Azizah, Florens, Putri, Muntaz, Ibu Desualini Anwar and Ibu Dewi Mulia)

Session I: Keynote Address
Chair: Professor Margaret Kartomi

9.45 - 10.30: The World of the Southern Malays, Professor Leonard Andaya, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu

10.30 - 11.00: tea

Session I: The Musical Lives of Southeast Asia’s Orang Laut/Bajau (Sea Peoples)
Chair: Dr Geoffrey Benjamin, Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University

11.00 - 11.30: The Sound of Music and the Orang Suku Laut in the Riau Islands Today, Associate Professor Cynthia Chou, University of Copenhagen

11.30 - 12.00: Urak Lawoi Festival Songs in Maritime Southwest Thailand, Dr Lawrence Ross, University of Malaya

12.00 - 12.30: Call-and-Response Genres among the West Coast Bajau of Sabah: Forms, Functions, and Possible Origins, Professor Jacqueline Pugh-Kitingan, Universiti Malaysia Sabah

12.30 - 14.00: Lunch, Monash Sports Centre Café (2-minute walk from the Music Auditorium)

Video interviews with speakers in Music Practice Room 1 (behind the Auditorium, see separate schedule)

Session II: Music and Hierarchy in the Malay Arts of the Western Riau Islands
Chair: Professor Mohd Anis Md Nor

14.00 - 14.30: The Monumental Sound of the Nobat Ensemble of the Sultanate of Riau-Lingga and its Recent Sonic Simulation in the Riau Islands, Professor Margaret Kartomi, Monash University

14.30 - 15.00: Sound, Power and Emotion in Nineteenth-Century Island Riau, Jennifer McCallum, Kings College, University of London

15.00 - 15.30: How a Bangsawan Music-Theatre Performance Built on the Cultural Memory of the Riau-Lingga Sultanate, with Special Reference to its Main Syair Song, Bronia Kornhauser MA, Monash University
Welcome Reception and Launch of the Exhibition: *Hang Tuah – “Malay Culture Will Never Die”*: The Malay Arts of Indonesia, with Special Reference to the Riau Islands

16.00 - 17.30: Ibu Dewi Savitri Wahab, the Indonesian Consul-General for Victoria and Tasmania, will launch the Exhibition. The Exhibition is presented by the Music Archive of Monash University (MAMU) and the Museum of Indonesian Arts (MIA) Inc, and includes the generous John Noble Bequest of Indonesian Textiles.

Performances:

A Vocal and *Biola* (violin) performance of verses from the *Gurindam Duabelas* poem by National Hero Raja Ali Haji (*ca. 1808 - ca.1872*) of Penyengat Island.

Artists: Dwi Saptarini and Supriyadi

A *biola* (violin) solo improvisation by Supriyadi, Lingkepin Studio, Tanjungpinang

A *makyong Bintan* theatre scene performed by the Team Kesenian Makyong Bintan, produced by Dr Pudentia M. Puranti, with the following artists: Jabatin Bangun, Tengku Muhammad Satar, Ibu Rohaya, Raja Helmy, and Tengku Sadiah

**Thursday 15th January**

**Session III: Musical Theatre in the Riau Islands**
Chair: Professor Barbara Andaya

9.00 - 9.30: *Recent Developments in Makyong Theatre Performance in Kabupaten Bintan, Riau Islands Province,* Dr Pudentia Puranti, University of Indonesia and Asosiasi Tradisi Lisan (Association for Oral Traditions)

9.30 - 10.00: *The Biola in Riau Islands Music Culture: Its History, Organology and Playing Styles,* Brigitta Scarfe, Monash University

10.00 - 10.30: *Cultural Continuance and Survival in the Indonesian Arts: Mendu Theatre Performance in Riau Islands Province,* Dr Karen Kartomi Thomas, Monash University

10.30 - 11.00: *Possible Origins and the Development of Mendu Theatre Performance in Natuna,* Dr Abdul Kadir Ibrahim, Independent Scholar, Tanjungpinang, Riau Islands

11.00 - 11.30: tea

*Video interviews with speakers in Music Practice Room 1 (behind the Auditorium, see separate schedule)*

**Session IV: The Contemporary Musical Scene in the Riau Islands**
Chair: Dr Aline Scott Maxwell

11.30 - 12.00: *Musical Cosmopolitanism in Kepri: an Examination of Local Aesthetic Responses to Social-Cultural Transformation,* Associate Professor Manolete Mora, University of New South Wales

12.00 - 12.30: *Otodidak: The Malay Musicians and Composers of Tanjungpinang and Pulau Penyengat,* Dr Geoffrey Benjamin, Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

12.30 - 13.30: Lunch, Monash Sports Centre Café (2-minute walk from the Music Auditorium)

*Video interviews with speakers in Music Practice Room 1 (behind the Auditorium, see separate schedule)*
Session V: Music and Dance in the Riau Islands and Neighbouring Countries of Southeast Asia
Chair: Dr Julian Millie

13.30 - 14.00: Zapin-Melayu: Constructing Malay-ness from the Body, Music and Dance of the Hadhramaut, Professor Mohd Anis Md Nor, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur

14.00 - 14.30: The Transmigration and Transformation of Court Dance and Music from Riau-Lingga: The Joget Gamelan of Malaysia, Dr Patricia Matsusky, University of Malaya, and Datin Marion D’Cruz, National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage in Malaysia

14.30 - 15.00: Re-imagining Singapore’s Connections to the Riau Archipelago at the Malay Heritage Centre (Taman Warisan Melayu), Noorashikin Zulkifli and Jamal Mohamed, Malay National Heritage Centre, Singapore

15.00 - 15.30: tea

Video interviews with speakers in Music Practice Room 1 (behind the Auditorium, see separate schedule)

Session VI: Film Screening

15.30: Mata Pena Mata Raja Haji Fisabilillah (Eye of the Pen and Eye of the Heart of Raja Haji Fisabilillah), 120 minutes. This controversial film, in Indonesian, is about the life of Riau Islands hero Raja Haji Fisabilillah (1727-1784). He was a renowned warrior, and became the Viceroy (Yang Dipertuan Muda) of the sultanate of Riau-Lingga Johor and Pahang on Penyengat Island from 1727-1784.

Session VII: Music, Culture and Politics in the Riau Islands
Chair: Professor Greg Barton

17.30 - 18.00: Appropriate Improvisational and Compositional Techniques in Riau Islands Music Today, Supriyadi Hasanin, Musician and Composer, Tanjungpinang

18.00 - 18.30: Who Cares about Malay Culture? And Why? Nicholas Long, London School of Economics and Political Science

Film Screenings:
If you wish, you may view the following films after your evening meal (not provided)

20.30: The Documentary of Silat. Filmed in Kampung Bugis, Bintan Island, Riau Islands Province, 15 minutes.

20.45 Tari Persembahan Adat Melayu Kepulauan Riau (Traditional Malay Offering Dance of the Riau Islands) danced by Lembaga Adat Melayu Kepulauan Riau (15 minutes).
Friday 16th January

Session VIII: “Poetry and Songs in Select Malay Areas of Sumatra”
Chair: Professor Barbara Hatley

9.30 - 10.00: *The Malay Mantra and Sutardji Calzoum Bachri*, Professor Harry Aveling, Monash University

10.00 - 10.30: *Two Female Lullaby Singers in Malay Villages of the Banyak Archipelagos: How Fragile is Their Tradition?* Ari Palawi, Monash University

10.30 - 11.00: tea

*Video interviews with speakers in Music Practice Room 1 (behind the Auditorium, see separate schedule)*

Session IX: “The Malay Musical Arts of the Riau Islands and Neighbouring Areas and Summing Up”
Chair: Dr Joel Crotty

11.00 - 11.30: *Histories of Malay Music and Dance on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands: Archival Musings Preparatory to Fieldwork*, Dr David R.M. Irving, Australian National University

11.30 - 12.00: *The Malay Musical Arts of the Riau Islands and Neighbouring Areas – Summing Up*, Professor Barbara Andaya, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Session X: Closing Ceremony
Chair: Antje Missbach

12.00 - 13.00: Closing Ceremony, with presentation of certificates by Ibu Dwi Lestari from the Office of the Riau Islands Governor, Bp Muhammad Sani, and a solo *biola* performance by Supriyadi.

13.00: lunch
Meeting of ARC research team to plan Book and Video outcomes (by invitation)

*Video interviews with speakers in Music Practice Room 1 (behind the Auditorium, see separate schedule)*

*NB* Please see Registration Desk for car transport to 83 Grandview Rd, Wheelers Hill for Indonesian Dinner at 19.00

*Video interview with the last speaker in Music Practice Room 1 (behind the Auditorium, see separate schedule)*

*You are warmly invited to an informal Indonesian Dinner at the Kartomi residence from 7pm, on Friday 16th January, at 83 Grandview Rd, Wheelers Hill, (tel: 9560 3966)*

**END OF SYMPOSIUM***

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