



Cultural Diplomacy: The Activities of Community of Gamelan Bali Tunas Mekar in Colorado, United States of America



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ABSTRACT

Gamelan Bali is one of the traditional Indonesian musical instruments that is growing rapidly in the United States, especially at several universities in Colorado. Gamelan became famous and popular in America in the mid-1950s when the Institute of Ethnomusicology at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) began introducing a set of Javanese gamelan, which was later followed by a set of Balinese gamelan with several teachers from Indonesia. Cultural diplomacy is a direct two-way exchange or one-way communication, one way to promote Indonesian culture to America. This fosters local and global music communities in creating cultural diplomacy. Tunas Mekar gamelan community became one of the Balinese gamelan groups that contributed to promoting Balinese culture in Colorado, USA. This study uses qualitative methods to identify comprehensive information about the spread of Balinese gamelan education in Denver. The results of this study show that non-Indonesian students can study and become teachers in the Gamelan Bali community.

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