



Pocket Gamelan

“Pocket Gamelan” is an evening-length show presented by **Talujon Percussion** which features newly commissioned works by American composers **Evan Ziporyn** and **Nick Brooke**, choreography and performance by **Mugiyono Kasido**, and a new work by **Dewa Alit**, a leading experimental composer from Indonesia. The multimedia program reimagines the gamelan as a makeshift and dynamic instrumentarium, comprised of parts gathered from the surrounding environment.

The Program

Evan Ziporyn, *Home Grown*

Nick Brooke, *The Traps*
with choreography by **Mugiyono Kasido**

Dewa Alit, new work

Talujon Percussion

Described by the New York Times as an ensemble possessing an “edgy, unflagging energy,” Talujon has been mesmerizing audiences since 1990. Talujon is thoroughly committed to the expansion of the contemporary percussion repertoire as well as the education and diversification of its worldwide audience. Over the past 20 years, Talujon has commissioned dozens of new works for percussion ensemble.

Target Dates

2014-15 Season

U.S. Premiere and performances

Summer 2015

Indonesian Premiere

2015-16 Season

U.S. Tour

Contact andrew@talujon.org for more

Program Info

“Pocket Gamelan” contains three new works by American and Balinese composers, written especially for Talujon Percussion, inspired by the composers’ experience with gamelan music and their integration of traditional and new music-making techniques.

Nick Brooke & Mugiyono

The Traps

For his new work *The Traps*, composer Nick Brooke has constructed six attaché cases filled with intricate miniature glass and metalwork, inspired by the sound effects boxes once employed for live accompaniment to silent films. Brooke’s work, commissioned through the Commissioning Music/USA program, will be developed in collaboration with the internationally celebrated, palace-trained dancer and choreographer Mugiyono Kasido, last seen in the U.S. in a solo performance at the 2005 Lincoln Center Festival.

Evan Ziporyn

Home Grown

Following more than 30 years of immersion in and creative engagement with Balinese gamelan, Evan Ziporyn’s new work *Home Grown* mixes the dovetailing rhythms of gamelan with Ziporyn’s own quirky language, re-orchestrated spontaneously on instruments gathered by the players at the site of each performance. The music’s form and organizational principles will be derived from the structure of traditional gamelan music, and recontextualized by the newly found sounds. It is a piece that has a distinctive identity but is “localized” anew with each performance.

Dewa Alit

Balinese composer Dewa Alit is composing a new work for Talujon Percussion, to be premiered on the Pocket Gamelan program. His large body of works includes pieces for gamelan, Western instruments, theatre, and dance, with performances at Carnegie Hall and the Bang on a Can Marathon. In 2007, Alit founded his own gamelan group Gamelan Salukat, which performs on a set of instruments designed to his own tuning and specification.

About the Gamelan

“Gamelan” is a catchall term for the orchestras of Java and Bali, most of which share gongs and slab-key metallophones, along with flutes, strings, and often singers. Far from a static instrumentarium, a gamelan can vary from a marching ensemble to a chamber group, and composers often augment or rebuild the gamelan.

Since at least the Paris Exposition of 1889, the gamelan orchestra has been a subject of fascination and source of innovation for Western composers. Yet new music for gamelan is rarely heard outside Java and Bali, in part because the gamelan’s gongs and slab-key instruments weigh in excess of two tons. As Javanese gamelan seems to slowly die out, smaller portable amalgams called “campur sari” (or “mixed essence”) are emerging. In “Pocket Gamelan,” Talujon reinvents the gamelan in a visually striking, ingeniously transportable manner, cobbled together from instruments representing an archipelago of influences.