I. M. Harjito taught and performed Javanese gamelan music for the Center for World Music from 1983 to 1984. Affectionally known by his students and colleagues as “Pak Harjito,” he is generally considered to be one of the finest Javanese musicians practicing today.

Pak Harjito is a graduate of Indonesia’s state conservatory for the traditional performing arts, where he worked closely with one of the major figures of 20th-century Javanese music, R. Ng. Martopangrawit. Pak Harjito has directed Javanese gamelan ensembles in Indonesia, the United States, Canada, and Australia. He is also a composer of tradition-based innovative works for gamelan and other instruments.

For the past three decades, Pak Harjito has been a distinguished member of the music faculty at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he has served as the artistic director of Gamelan Kusuma Laras (“Flowering Harmony”). Although he is a master of all the Javanese gamelan instruments, he is most well-known for his superb rebab and gendèr playing, particularly in the classical court style of Surakarta.