



CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC

AND RELATED ARTS



I Nyoman Astita

I Nyoman Astita taught and performed Balinese gamelan music for the Center for World Music from 1982 to 1983. Widely known as “Komang,” he was brought up in the rich culture of Bali and was thus able to explore the traditional performing arts extensively. He has taught Balinese gamelan music in remote villages throughout Bali as well as at universities in the United States. Throughout his career he has also been especially active as a creator of new performing arts possibilities—new forms that have stimulated and enriched the contemporary music scene in Indonesia.

Komang was born in Denpasar, Bali in 1952. In 1968 he enrolled in the local Traditional Music Conservatory, after which he studied at the university-level Indonesia Dance Academy (ASTI), in Denpasar, Bali, where he received a bachelor’s degree in 1976. A year after he graduated from ASTI, Komang was appointed as a lecturer there, a position that he held for many years.

In 1981 Komang studied ethnomusicology under ethnomusicologist Robert E. Brown, while teaching Balinese gamelan at San Diego State University, where he received a master’s degree. In 1983 he founded Gamelan Giri Blooms at West Hurly-Hudson in New York. In 1987 he served as a guest professor at the Montreal University of Canada. In 2006 he received a Fulbright Grant to teach gamelan at Union College in Schenectady New York. In 2012 he received a doctoral degree, graduating summa cum laude, from the University of Udayana in Bali.

In addition to his many activities as a composer, musician, and teacher, Komang has been one of the main forces behind the success of the annual Bali Arts Festival in Denpasar, Bali.