



# CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC

AND RELATED ARTS



## I Nyoman Sumandhi

I Nyoman Sumandhi taught and performed Balinese gamelan music for the Center for World Music in spring 2000 and again from 2002 to 2003. He was born in Bali, Indonesia, into a family of traditional Balinese shadow-puppet masters (*dalang*). His father was a famous *dalang*, and Sumandhi followed in his footsteps. Becoming a *dalang* involves a mastery of traditional Balinese music, dance, and choreography, as well as the repertoire and theatrical techniques associated with the shadow-puppet theater (*wayang kulit*), which is regarded as the pinnacle of the arts in Bali. Sumandhi is an expert performer, on the instruments (*gender wayang*) that accompany the *wayang kulit* and of the traditional masked dance drama (*topeng*), as well as other forms of Balinese music and dance.

In Bali, Sumandhi received a diploma for music, dance, and puppetry from the Conservatory of Indonesian Music and Dance in 1964 and pursued advanced study in music, dance, choreography, and theater at the Indonesian State Dance Academy from 1967 to 1970.

In the United States, Sumandhi studied ethnomusicology at the University of California, Los Angeles, with Dr. Mantle Hood, under a grant from the John D. Rockefeller 3rd Fund from 1972 to 1974. He earned a Master of Arts degree in theater from Wesleyan University, under a grant from the Ford Foundation. His thesis is entitled “A Performance of Wayang Calonarang.”

Sumandhi has held teaching positions both in Bali and in the United States. In Bali, he has taught in many local village performing arts associations and at the High School of Performing Arts in Denpasar, where he also served as its principal from 1991 to 1999. In the United States, he has taught at UCLA (1972-74), the University of Washington (1973), Wesleyan University (1987), the University of California at Santa Cruz (1993), and San Diego State University (2000-2003).

Sumandhi has performed in countries all around the world, including Japan, South Korea, Australia, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, France, Switzerland, Iran, India, and the United States.