



CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC

AND RELATED ARTS



Rahayu Supanggah

Rahayu Supanggah taught and performed Javanese gamelan music for the Center for World Music from 1987 to 1988. Affectionally known as “Panggah,” he was a virtuoso performer and an exacting teacher, with over a half century of experience performing and teaching in over 40 countries around the world. He composed more than 100 pieces and was known for his compositions for *Opera Jawa*, an Indonesian-Austrian musical film directed by Garin Nugroho that won the Asian Film Award in 2007. From 2007 onward, Panggah was resident artist at the Southbank Centre, London.

Once he was associated with the Surakarta Karawitan Conservatory (KOKAR) Panggah became widely known. He also studied at the Surakarta Indonesian Academy of Karawitan Arts (ASKI), the predecessor to the Surakarta Indonesian Institute of the Arts, where he would subsequently teach as a professor. Upon completing his studies at ASKI in the early 1970s, Panggah served as a traditional Javanese gamelan teacher in Australia from 1972 to 1974, after which he toured Europe throughout 1976.

In the early 1980s, Panggah enrolled as a doctoral student at the Université Paris Diderot’s Ethnomusicology Department. Throughout the 1990s, he worked closely with noted film directors such as Barbara Benary, Jody Diamond, Toshi Tsuchori, Phillip Corner, Katsura Kan, and Warner Kaegl.

Back home in Java, he also worked intensively with distinguished musicians such as Suryadarmo, Jun Saptohadi, Suka Hardjana, Sardono W. Kusuma, Garin Nugroho, Dwiki Dharmawan, and Idris Sardi.

Throughout his long and illustrious career, Panggah was awarded numerous awards, both at home in Java and abroad. He was bestowed the prestigious Bintang Budaya Parama Dharma award in 2010, by former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, in honor of his artistic work. Panggah was named “Best Composer” during a 2006 Film Festival in Nantes, France, “Best Composer” at the 1st Asian Film Awards in Hong Kong (2007), and was lauded for the Best Original Score at the 26th Indonesian Film Festival (2006), and “Best Composer and World Master on Music and Culture” in Seoul, South Korea (2008).