



CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC

AND RELATED ARTS



I Wayan Rai

I Wayan Rai taught and performed Balinese gamelan music for the Center for World Music from 1983 to 1984. Affectionally known as “Pak Rai,” he was born in Ubud, Bali, within walking distance from the royal palace. He attended the two main performing arts conservatories in Bali (SMKI and STSI) and in the United States completed an M.A. degree in ethnomusicology with Robert E. Brown at San Diego State University and a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology with Mantle Hood at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. After his return to Bali from the United States, he supervised gamelan musical activities in his home village of Ubud. During that time he also composed new works, both for traditional ceremonies and for tourists keen on learning about Balinese music and dance. Pak Rai stated his “hope that foreigners will have a chance to learn about our culture before and during their stays here so that they will be able to appreciate Balinese arts with a more critical eye.”

After serving with distinction as a performing arts faculty member, Pak Rai was appointed director (*rektor*) of the Indonesian Institute of the Arts Denpasar (ISI Denpasar). Later, he accepted an administrative position with the Ministry of National Education in Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia. He was eventually promoted to the directorship of the Indonesian Institute of Cultural Arts (ISBI) in Papua, New Guinea. Aside from many musical compositions and scholarly publications about music, dance, and theater in Bali, Pak Rai also served as a consultant for a film documenting Bali’s most important ceremony (*Eka Dasa Rudra*)—a video that was produced by Dr. Jann Pasler, a professor of music at the University of California, San Diego. The was intended to stimulate discussion and analysis in university courses in cultural anthropology, religion, Asian and Balinese studies, and ethnomusicology.