



CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC

AND RELATED ARTS



K. P. H. Notoprojo

K. P. H. Notoprojo taught and performed Javanese gamelan music for the Center for World Music from 1989 to 1992. Affectionately referred to as “Pak Cokro,” he was one of the most highly respected performers, teachers, and composers of Javanese gamelan music. He led the gamelan at the Pakualaman Palace, Yogyakarta, as well as the gamelan for the Radio Republik Indonesia Yogyakarta, and taught gamelan in universities around the world. He composed over 250 works, including numerous light gamelan pieces and experimental works, many of which are prominent in the modern gamelan repertory. According to the ethnomusicologist Mantle Hood, "It is accepted that no other Indonesian has even approached the contributions of this man in helping the world know the great gamelan traditions of Java." On March 9, 2004, he received the prestigious Nugraha Bhakti Musik Indonesia Award.

Pak Cokro was born in Yogyakarta, Java. He grew up in the Pakualaman Palace, where he began studying music at five years old under the tutelage of his father, R. W. Padmowinangum, who led the palace gamelan. Pak Cokro's formal education, however, was at the Taman Siswa secondary school, enriched by studies at the palace.

In addition to playing in the court gamelan, Pak Cokro performed with other famous gamelan groups and served as gamelan music director at local radio stations. He had the opportunity to teach Javanese gamelan abroad beginning in 1953. In Java he taught at the Konservatori Tari Indonesia and Akademi Seni Tari Indonesia, and founded a school for the study of vocal music, Pusat Olah Vokal Wasitodipuro.

Pak Cokro led the gamelan at the Indonesian Pavilion of the 1964 New York World's Fair. He moved to Valencia, California in 1971, where he taught at the California Institute of the Arts until 1992. In addition, he taught at the University of California, Berkeley, at San Jose State University, and many other universities in the United States and Canada. In 1992 he retired and returned to Yogyakarta. His home there is both a residence for young artists and a site for regular performances and gatherings of some of the best gamelan artists in Central Java.