



# CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC

AND RELATED ARTS

## Artist-Teacher Resume



### I WAYAN SUWECA

I Wayan Suweca taught Balinese gamelan for the Center for World Music during 1974 and continued performing for the CWM periodically from 1975 to 1980. One of Bali's most brilliant musicians, he began studying Balinese music with his father Wayan Konolan, a renowned performer and staff musician in the "all-star" resident gamelan at *Radio Republik Indonesia*. Known for the fluency and endless variations of his drumming techniques, he was also a master of the intricate music of *gender wayang*, instrumental accompaniment to the Balinese traditional shadow puppet theater and for many rituals. Suweca studied formally at the national performing arts academy in Bali and performed extensively throughout Asia, Europe, and the United States. He received a Rockefeller grant to teach Balinese music at Brown University and taught at the Center for World Music, UCLA, UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, Loyola University, and the University of Montreal. In 1979 he co-founded the San Francisco-based American Balinese gamelan group Sekar Jaya, serving as its resident artist-teacher for two years until he returned to Bali in 1981 to accept a teaching position at the Institute of Indonesian Arts.

Throughout his career Suweca received numerous awards and commissions from foundations, galleries, and art organizations. He was, for example, commissioned by *Diffusion Système Minuit du Québec* to create a contemporary music composition for gamelan entitled "Cyclus Kahidupan" (The Cycle of Life). He also directed the Gamelan de l'Université de Montréal's special concert for the anniversary of the Paris International Exhibition in 1989, which was broadcast on Radio-Canada and Radio-France.

Suweca appears on more than thirty CDs for various labels, including Bali Records and Nonesuch. In 2006 he began working on a Balinese shadow puppet project (*wayang kulit*) for which he conducted extensive research into the esoteric Balinese singing style (*kakawin*) associated with that ancient theatrical tradition.