

Robert Castells

Gamelan

Commissioned for the project *Pictures at a Southeast Asian Exhibition* 2021
National Gallery, Singapore.

Gamelan by Mohammad Yamin

Translation by Rafi Kamsani

Tersimbah hati melihat bulan,
Diiringi awan kanan dan kiri;
Bagaikan benda berseri baiduri,
Sedangkan bintang timbul-timbulan.

Heart overwhelmed at the sight of the moon,
Accompanied by clouds right and left,
Like a shimmering gem,
While the stars flicker.

Di waktu purnama berjalan-jalan
Seorang sahaja sayang sendiri;
Digundah lagi di malam hari,
Turun naik bungi gamelan.

When the full moon paces,
A single person pities himself,
Despondent again in the night,
With the rise and fall of the sound of the gamelan.

Lamalah sudah, padam suara,
Dibawa angin ke mana tujungnya.
Kemudian hilang dalam udara.

For too long, the voice has faded,
Carried by the wind to where it was heading,
Then lost in thin air.

Entah di mana sekarang duduknya,
Tetapi hatiku tiada terkira;
Siang dan malam dimabuknya.

Wherever it may be now,
But my heart is unrelenting,
Intoxicated, day and night.

Performance notes

The performance duration is 9'14".

The visual aspect of the performance is as important as the musical performance.

The singers adopt a lotus position.

The singers sit on stools or on the floor or on a raised platform.

The singers' position is carefully calculated to create a perfect symmetrical balance with the painting.

The singers should not obstruct the view of the painting or its image.

All gestures are controlled, serene and slow.

Like in a gamelan orchestra, each singer plays a precise role:
the bass is the Expirator, the baritone the Time Keeper, tenor 3 the Announcer,
tenor 2 the Pitch Keeper, tenor 1 the Colotomic Marker and
the countertenor is the Visual Revealer.

Page 1 explains these functions and their notation.

The kempul may be replaced by a kenong tumbuk nem.

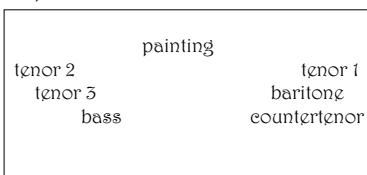
The kecer may be replaced by a suspended triangle
or any small handheld metallophone of undetermined pitch.

Gamelan

for male sextet a cappella
opus 131 (duration: 9'14")

Mohammad Yamin

Robert Casteels



Vocal range: [Treble clef] **Notation:** [Note] **Using sign language, the Visual Revealer mimes the words hati, bulan, purnama, padam suara and tiada**

Vocal range: [Treble clef] **Notation:** [Note] **The Colotomic Maker plays the kecer (or triangle), one stroke per word recited by the Announcer. Let ring the kecer**

Vocal range: [Treble clef] **Notation:** [Note] **The Pitch Keeper plays one kempul. Let ring the kempul**

Vocal range: [Treble clef] **Notation:** [Note] **The herald announces the full title and the strophes**

Vocal range: [Bass clef] **Notation:** [Note] **The Time Keeper checks the tempo with his silent metronome. He plays the kompong, a traditional Malag hand drum**

Vocal range: [Bass clef] **Notation:** [Note] **The Expirator leads the unvoiced and forceful exhalations. He observes the different durations of the three fermata symbols**

Strophe 1 $\text{♩} = 80$

1 **A** *mf* play 6 times

Gamelan, lukisan oleh Sudiano Kerton, pantum oleh Mohammad Yamin dan muzik oleh Robert Casteels.
Rangkap pertama

2 **Cnt.**

T.1

Bar. **(check silent metronome)**

B. **touched**

"hati"

ha - ti

Ter - sim - bah

Ter - sim - bah

heart (lit. liver)

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51

Cnt.

T.1

T.2

T.3

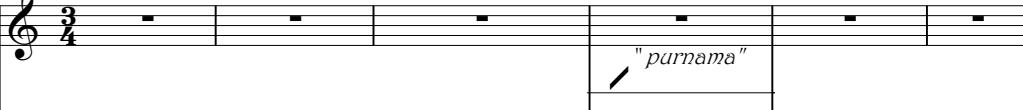
Bar.

B.

*With eyes closed, unvoiced, exhale forcefully.
Observe the different duration of the three fermata symbols.*

56 **B** Strophe 2 ($\text{♩} = 88$)

56

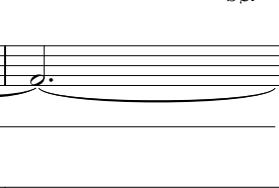
Cnt. 

T.1 
 "parnاما"
 ber - ja - lan - ja - lan
 p

T.2 
 ber
 p

T.3 
 Rangkap kedua
 Di wak - tu pur - na - ma _____
 mp

Bar. 
 pur - na - ma _____
 mp

B. 
 pur - na - ma _____
 mp
 at time full moon paces

45

Cnt. - - - - | #**p****p****p****p**

T.1 *mf* ber - ja - lan - ja - lan ber - ja - lan - ja - lan *Se - o rang*

T.2 ja - lan - ja - lan *f* ber - ja - lan - ja - lan

T.3 *mf* ber - ja - lan - ja - lan *f* ber - ja - lan - ja - lan

Bar. pur - na - ma *f*

B. pur - na - ma *f*

one person

48

Cnt. *p sub* rit. dim.

sa - ha ja — sa - yang — sen - di — ri
colla parte

Bar. *colla parte*

B. *colla parte*

only love pity

57

T.1

T.2

T.3

Bar.

C

Tu - run na - ik bu - ngi ga -
Tu - run na - ik bu - ngi
Tu - run na - ik bu - ngi
Tu - ran na - - ik bu - - ngi
Tu - ran na - - ik bu - - ngi
Tu - ran na - - ik bu - - ngi
Tu - ran na - - ik bu - - ngi

p

pp

p

p

down up sound

67

Cnt. *mp* Tu - rum na - ik bu - nji ga - me - lan. Tu - run na -

T.1 me - lan. Tu - ru -

T.2 *mp* ga - me - lan. Tu - run na - ik bun gi ga - me - lan.

T.3 *mp* ga - me - lan. Tu - run na - ik

Bar. bun - - - - - gi - - - - - ga - - - - -

gamelan

64

Cnt.

T.1

T.2

T.3

Bar.

67

Cnt. *ff*
ga - - - me - lan.

T.1 *ff*
ngi - - - ga - - - me - lan.

T.2 *ff*
bu - - nyi - - - me - lan.

T.3 *ff*
me - lan. Tu - rum na - ik bu - ngi ga - me - lan. Tu -

Bar. *ff*
na - ik - - bu - - - ngi - - - me - lan.

77

Cnt. *f*
Tu - run na - ik bu - nji ga - me -

T.1 *f*
Tu - run na - ik bu - nji ga - me -

T.2
Tu - ran na - ik bu - nji ga - me -

T.3 *f*
run na - ik bu - nji ga - me -

Bar. *f*
Tu - run na - ik bu - nji ga - me - lan.

78

Cnt.
lan. Tu - run na - il bu - nji ga - me - lan.

T.1
lan. Tu - run na - il bu - nji ga - me -

T.2
bu - - - nji ga - - -

T.3
- nji - - - ga - - - me -

Bar. *mf*
Tu - run na - ik bu - nji ga - me - lan.

78

Cnt. *p*
lan. Tu - run na - ik bu - nji ga - me - lan.

T.1
lan. Tu - rum na - ik bu - nji ga - me - lan.

T.2
me - - - lan.

T.3
- - - lan.

Bar. *p*
Tu - rum na - ik bu - nji ga - me - lan.

Check metronome and prepare the kompong

 ♩ = 120

so

Cnt.    
ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan.

T.1   
⁸ ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan.

T.2   
⁸ ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan. Fèn Fèn Fèn Fèn

T.3  
⁸ ga - me - lan. Mun Mun Mun Mun

Bar.   
Dam Dam Dam

B.    Gon Gon

so

Cnt.            <img alt="Tin dynamic" data-bbox="435 14125 4

ss

Cnt. *mp*
Lén Lén Lén Lén Lén Lén Lén Lén Fén Fén Fén Fén

T.1 *mp*
Fén Fén Fén Fén Mun Mun

T.2 *mp*
Mun Mun Ðam

T.3 *mp*
Ðam Ðam

Bar. *mp*
Gon —

B. *mp*
Tin Lén Lén Lén Lén Lén Lén Lén Lén Lén
Lén Lén

ss

Cnt. *mf*
Mun Mun Ðam

T.1 *mf*
Ðam Ðam

T.2 *mf* >
Ðam Gon —

T.3 *mf*
Gon —

Bar. *mf*
Tin Lén
Lén Lén

B. *mf*
Fén Fén Fén Fén Mun Mun



94

Cnt. *p* ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan. at least 7" at least 11"

T.1 *p* ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan. *fp dim. with eyes closed* *fp dim. with eyes closed*

T.2 *p* (h) ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan. *Slowly prepare the triangle* *fp dim. with eyes closed* *at least 11"*

T.3 *p* 8 ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan. *Slowly prepare to play the kenong* *fp dim. with eyes closed* *at least 7"* *at least 11"*

Bar. *p* (h) ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan. *With eyes closed, unvoiced, exhale forcefully.* *Observe the different duration of the two fermata symbols* *fp dim. with eyes closed* *at least 7"* *at least 11"* *Check metronome and prepare the kompong*

B. *p* ga - me - lan. ga - me - lan. *fp dim. with eyes closed* *at least 7"* *at least 11"* *fp dim. with eyes closed* *sf*

E Strophe 3 ($\text{♩} = 80$)

99 T.1 *p* lamentoso twice la - ma - lah su - dah

T.2 la - ma - lah su -

T.3 Rangkap ketiga *p* la - ma -

102 Cnt. *pp* la - ma - lah for a long time after

T.1 la - ma - lah su - dah

T.2 dah la - ma - lah su -

T.3 lah su - dah la - ma -

B. *pp* la - ma - lah

105

Cnt.  

T.1  

T.2  

T.3  

Bar.  

B.  

murmured pa - dam, wa -
pa - dam su - a - ra pa - dam,
dah pa - dam su - a - ra pa - dam,
lah su - dah pa - dam su - a - ra pa - dam, ba -
murmured pa - dam,
murmured pa - dam, Di -
fading voice

109

Cnt.  

T.1  

T.2  

T.3  

Bar.  

B.  

mf dim.
Di - ba - wa a ngin ke ma na na na na
Di - ba - wa a ngin ke ma na na na na na na
mf dim.
Di - ba - wa a ngin ke ma na na na na na na
mf dim.
Di - ba - wa a ngin ke ma na na na na na na
brought by the wind to wherever

112

G ♩ = 88

Cnt. *mf*

T.1 *mf* 3 tu - ja - nga. Di - ba - wa an gin __ ke ma __

T.2 *mf* 3 tu - ja - nga. ba

T.3 *mf* 3 Di - ba - wa an gin __ ke ma __

Bar. *mf* 3 tu - ja - nga. wa

B. *mf* 3 Di - ba - wa an gin __ ke ma __

1 your own direction $\frac{3}{4}$ | $\frac{4}{4}$ | $\frac{3}{4}$

116

Cnt.

T.1 *mf dim.* na ma na na ma na tu ja - nga.

T.2

T.3 *mf dim.* na ma na na ma na tu ja - nga.

Bar.

B. Check metronome and prepare kompong *mf dim.* na ma na na ma na tu ja - nga.

119 = 96

Cnt. 3 - - - - 3 3 3 3
Re - mu - dian hi - lang — da - lam u - da -

T.1 8 - - - - 3 3 3 3
Re - mu - dian hi - lang — da - lam u - da -

T.2 8 - - - - 3 3 3 3
Re - mu - dian hi - lang — da - lam u - da -

T.3 8 - - - - #p 3
Re - mu - dian

Bar. 3 - - - - #p 3
Re - mu - dian

B. 3 - - - - #p o
Re - mu - diam

after lost in air

122 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
ra — da - lam u - da -

T.1 8 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
ra — da - lam u - da - ra.

T.2 8 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
ra — u - da - ra.

T.3 8 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
hi - lang da - lam u - da - ra.

Bar. P 3 3 3 3
hi - lang da - lam u - da - ra.

B. P 3 3 3 3
hi - lang da - lam u - da -

I Meno mosso $\text{♩} = 88$

124 Cnt. $\text{♩} \# \text{F}$ - ra.

T.1 $\text{♩} \text{G}$ La - ma - lah su - dah

T.2 $\text{♩} \text{G}$ La - ma - lah su - dah

T.3 $\text{♩} \text{G}$ La - ma - lah su - dah

B. $\text{♩} \# \text{F}$ - ra.

J Meno mosso $\text{♩} = 80$ Meno mosso $\text{♩} = 72$

127 Cnt. $\text{♩} \text{D}$ La - ma - lah "padam" pa dam, $\text{♩} \text{E}$ fp dim. with eyes closed

T.1 $\text{♩} \text{D}$ La ma - lah su - dah pa dam su a ra pa dam, $\text{♩} \text{E}$ fp dim. with eyes closed

T.2 $\text{♩} \text{D}$ La ma - lah su - dah pa dam su a ra pa dam, $\text{♩} \text{E}$ fp dim. with eyes closed

T.3 $\text{♩} \text{D}$ La ma - lah su dah pa dam su a ra pa dam, $\text{♩} \text{E}$ fp dim. with eyes closed

Bar. $\text{♩} \text{D}$ - pa dam, Metronome

B. $\text{♩} \text{D}$ La - ma - lah pa dam, $\text{♩} \text{E}$ fp dim. sf with eyes closed

154 K Strophe 4 $\text{d.} = 120$

Cnt. $\text{G} \frac{6}{8}$ *ppp cresc. a pp*
 En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya

T.1 $\text{G} \frac{6}{8}$ *ppp cresc. a pp*
 En - tah di ma - na
 twice *pp*
Rangkap keempat

B. $\text{B} \frac{6}{8}$ *p ma sostenuto*
 Te - ta - pi ha - ti - ku
 I don' know where now it sits
 but my heart

155

Cnt. $\text{G} \frac{6}{8}$ *ppp cresc. a pp*
 En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na

T.1 $\text{G} \frac{6}{8}$ *ppp cresc. a pp*
 se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya

T.2 $\text{G} \frac{6}{8}$ *ppp cresc. a pp*
 En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang

T.3 $\text{G} \frac{6}{8}$ *ppp cresc. a pp*
 En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah

B. $\text{B} \frac{6}{8}$
 tia - da
 heart

142

Cnt. *ppp cresc. & pp*
se - ka - rang du duk nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du duk nya

T.1 *ppp cresc. & pp*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du duk nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang

T.2 *ppp cresc. & pp*
du duk nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du duk nya

T.3 *ppp cresc. & pp*
di ma - na se - ka - rang du duk nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du duk nya

B. ter - - - ki - - - ra; - - -
unrelenting - - -



146

Cnt. *pp cresc. & mp*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah

T.1 *pp cresc. & mp*
du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya

T.2 *pp cresc. & mp*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na

T.3 *pp cresc. & mp*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya

Bar. *p ma sostenuto*
Te - ta pi _____ ha - ti ku _____ tia -
Te - ta pi _____ ha - ti ku _____ tia -

B. *p ma sostenuto*



150

Cnt. *pp cresc. a mp*
di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya
En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya

T.1 *pp cresc. a mp*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya
En - tah di ma - na

T.2 *pp cresc. a mp*
se - ka -rang du -duk -nya
En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya

T.3 *pp cresc. a mp*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya
En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang

Bar. da _____ ter

B. da _____ ter

154

Cnt. *p cresc. a mf*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya En - tah di ma - na

T.1 *pp cresc. a mp*
se - ka -rang du -duk -nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya

T.2 *pp cresc. a mp*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya se - ka -rang du -duk -nya

T.3 *pp cresc. a mp* *mp sostenuto*
du -duk -nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya Te - ta pi _____

Bar. *mp sostenuto*
- ki - ra; _____ Te - ta pi _____

B. *mp sostenuto*
- ki - ra; _____ Te - ta pi _____

158

Cnt. *p cresc. & mf*
se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya

T.1 *p cresc. & mf*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang

T.2 *p cresc. & mf*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah

T.3 *p cresc. & mf*
ha - ti ku _____ tia - da _____

Bar. *p cresc. & mf*
ha - ti ku _____ tia - da _____

B. *p cresc. & mf*
ha - ti ku _____ tia - da _____

162

Cnt. *p cresc. & mf*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang

T.1 *p cresc. & mf*
du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah

T.2 *p cresc. & mf*
di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya

T.3 *p cresc. & mf*
_____ ter - - - ki - ra; _____

Bar. *p cresc. & mf*
_____ ter - - - ki - ra; _____

B. *p cresc. & mf*
_____ ter - - - ki - ra; _____

166

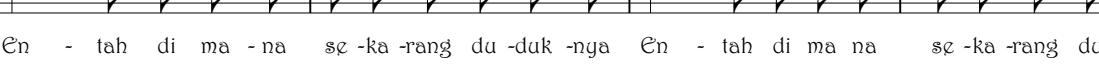
Cnt. *mp cresc. af*
du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya
 T.1 *mp cresc. af*
di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na
 T.2 *mf sostenuto*
Te - ta - pi ha - ti - ku
 T.3 *mf sostenuto*
Te - ta - pi ha - ti - ku
 Bar. *mf sostenuto*
Te - ta - pi ha - ti - ku
 B. *mf sostenuto*
Te - ta - pi ha - ti - ku

169

Cnt. *mp cresc. af*
En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na
 T.1 *mp cresc. af*
se - ka - rang du - duk - nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka - rang du - duk - nya
 T.2 *mf sostenuto*
tia - da
 T.3 *mf sostenuto*
tia - da
 Bar. *mf sostenuto*
tia - da
 B. *mf sostenuto*
tia - da

175

Cnt. 

T.1 

T.2 

T.3 

Bar. 



177

Cnt. *f* *sostenuto*

T.1

T.2

T.3

Bar.

B.

180

Cnt. di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya

T.1 da ter

T.2 da ter

T.3 da ter

Bar. da se - ka -rang du -duk -nya

B. di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya

184

Cnt. En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya ti - a - da ha -ti -ku ti - a - da ff "tiada"

T.1 - ki ra; ha -ti -ku ti - a - da f in tempo with eyes open

T.2 - ki ra; ha -ti -ku ti - a - da f in tempo with eyes open

T.3 - ki ra; ha -ti -ku ti - a - da ff f in tempo with eyes open

Bar. En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya ti - a - da ha -ti -ku ti - a - da ff Metronome and kompong

B. En - tah di ma - na se - ka -rang du -duk -nya ti - a - da ha -ti -ku ti - a - da ff f in tempo with eyes open

L ♩ = 120

189

Cnt. *pp* *p* *mf* *ff*

T.1 Si ang dan _____ Si ang dan _____ Si ang dan di ma -buk -nya. *ff tpo*

8 Prepare the triangle Si ang dan Si ang dan Si ang dan di ma -buk -nya. *ff tpo*

T.2 *pp* *p* *mf* *ff*

Si ang dan Si ang dan Si ang dan di ma -buk -nya.

T.3 *pp* *p* *mf* *ff* *ff tpo*

ma lam ma lam ma lam di ma -buk -nya. *ff tpo*

Bar. *ff dim.* ma lam ma lam ma lam di ma -buk -nya.

B. *pp* *p* *mf* *ff*

ma lam ma lam ma lam di ma -buk -nya.

day and night *ff tpo*



Suspended tempo: irregular and free

After the bass, start singing once **pp bulan** and hold until the instrumental articulation

199

Cnt. Sing thrice **ppp** the word *tersimbah* unsynchronized, in a slow tempo

T.1 twice Sing thrice **ppp** the word *hati* unsynchronized, in a slow tempo

T.2 Sing thrice **ppp** the word *melihat* unsynchronized, in a slow tempo

T.3 Rangkap terakhir Sing thrice **ppp** the word *melihat* unsynchronized, in a slow tempo

Bar. **pp** Sing thrice **ppp** the word *hati* unsynchronized, in a slow tempo

B. Sing thrice **ppp** the word *tersimbah* unsynchronized, in a slow tempo

All stand, bow with thanking hands

After tenor 2, start singing once **pp bulan** and hold until the instrumental articulation

First to start singing once **pp bulan** and hold until the instrumental articulation secco, on baritone's signal

After tenor 1, start singing once **pp bulan** and hold until the instrumental articulation All stand, bow with thanking hands

After tenor 3, start singing once **pp bulan** and hold until the instrumental articulation

give signal and play secco

After the bariton, start singing once **ppp bulan** and hold until the instrumental articulation