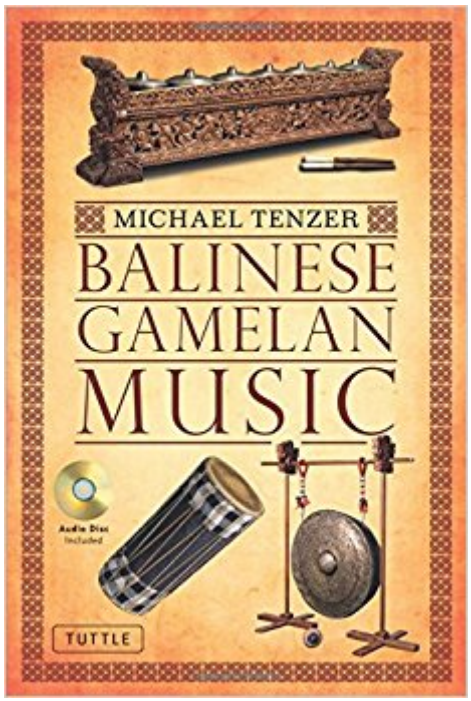
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Balinese Gamelan Music



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Synopsis

With extensive photographs and an audio CD this guide to Balinese music showcases the history, culture and art of the gamelan ceremony. Bali has develop and nourished an astonishing variety of musical ensemblesÃ¢â ¬â •called gamelanÃ¢â ¬â •comprising dozens of instruments mainly made of bronze or bamboo, and organized into groups with as many as 30 to 40 players. In Balinese Gamelan Music, Michael Tenzer, a noted Professor of Music at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, presents an introduction to many types of Balinese gamelan ensembles, each with its own established tradition, repertoire and context. The instruments and basic principles underlying the music are introduced, providing listeners with the means to better appreciate the musicÃ¢â ¬â •and its importance not only in Bali but around the world.The gamelan music of Bali is a centuries-old kaleidoscope of sound and rhythm that is recognized today as one of the world's most sophisticated musical traditions. Despite rapid changes in contemporary village life, hundreds of groups still perform regularly around this tiny islandÃ¢â ¬â •from isolated mountain hamlets to the bustling precincts of Denpasar, Kuta and Ubud. The primary function of gamelan music in Bali is to accompany religious rituals. Each village typically maintains several different gamelan sets, using each one for a different set of occasions. Music is memorized, and rehearsed in village meeting halls, temples, or private homes. When a gamelan group accompanies a Balinese dance performance, the close coordination between the dancers' movements and the music is established through a complex system of interactive cues and responses. Performance standards are extremely high and even with Bali's rapid modernization in recent years, the gamelan tradition remains vital and largely undiminished by outside musical influences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael Tenzer teaches at the University of British Columbia and is a recognized authority on Balinese gamelan. He has studied and performed with teachers and groups all over Bali since 1977. Tenzer holds a Ph.D. in Music Composition from the UC Berkeley, and taught at Yale from 1986Ã¢â ¬â •96.

Full, delightful gamelan at its best!

I collect Gamelan instruments, both Javanese and Balinese. This is an excellent introduction to the Balinese side of things. This is some of the most beautiful and unusual music in the world. The great bronze metallophones are stunning.

Dr. Tenzer is not only a well known scholar, but also an expert player and composer in the Balinese gamelan idiom, and a founding member of America’s fine ensemble, Sekar Jaya. He brings his wealth of skill, knowledge and experience to this work, an essential and absolute must-have item for both enthusiast and player alike. Over the course of nine chapters he covers everything from construction and tuning; to history; to the music’s place in Balinese society: today, in the modern era. This up-to-date aspect is what I found to be so invaluable about "Balinese Music". Outside of actually going to visit the island, reading this book has got to be the next best thing, giving you a very palpable sense of gamelan’s power and meaning in its native cultural climate. In addition to the text, Tenzer adds a very helpful glossary of terms, as well as an index of recommended recordings, both of Balinese productions, and of those from the West. I can’t find anything in this book that isn’t right on the money. Colin McPhee’s masterwork may be the Bible of gamelan theory, but for practice, nobody has yet outdone Tenzer’s work, and I recommend it highly to everyone interested in this subject.

I am Balinese and live and play the gamelan in Bali and sell the instruments.I enjoyed this book very much - it’s a very clear introduction to Balinese gamelan music, and can be read, with great interest, also by people who do not play the music, but just enjoy listening to it. It will certainly increase the pleasure.There are excellent drawings and photographs

Gamelan is basically a pot gong and xylophone orchestra, from Indonesia. They have similar instruments in Thailand and Cambodia. They are played something like hocketing. The sound is ethereally beautiful, truly incredible. Balinese stands out among Javanese gamelan, it is faster, and livelier. This is a rather nice coverage of the subject, I was impressed. Listen, go to youtube, put in Gamelan, and listen for a bit. The music will sell itself to your ear.

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