**Handout 1: Jamming with the gamelan**

Recommended for Lower Secondary & above

This handout is meant to accompany the self-guided lesson. When you’re done, why not check in with a friend and find out what they have answered. Sharing your answers might give you different perspectives.

**Music, culture & traditions**

**Activity 1: Music from different communities**

1a. Can you think of an important occasion where music is important to the rites and rituals or traditions in your own culture?

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b. Can you describe what type of ensemble is responsible for creating the music and how the music is expressed (e.g through singing, instruments?)

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2. How does music add to the activities that are happening in the videos? Does it evoke certain feelings in an audience/observer?

a. Hindu devotees celebrating Thaipusam

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b. A lion dance performance

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c. A kompang ensemble for a Malay wedding procession

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**When different music styles come together**

**Activity 3: Instruments from different music traditions**

1a. Have you encountered any popular band/artist that uses traditional instruments in at least one of their songs? If yes, name the instrument(s).

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b. Did it make the band's/artist's music sound more traditional than usual? If yes, why?

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c. How does the music make you feel?

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**Activity 4: Self-reflection**

**Before watching**

1a. How would you describe *gamelan* music when you first listened to it in *Ricik-ricik*? You can use this list to help you describe how the music sounds. <https://boompositive.com/blogs/positivethesaurus/synonyms-for-music-words>

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b. Do you think that by adding the *bansuri (*a type of Indian flute) to a *gamelan*ensemble, it will change how *gamelan*music sounds traditionally?

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**After watching**

2a. What other non-traditional instruments can you spot in the band?

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b. After watching the performance of *Kaleidoscope* by Kulcha, how would you describe the music now with the addition of the *bansuri*? You can use this list to help you describe how the music sounds: <https://boompositive.com/blogs/positivethesaurus/synonyms-for-music-words>

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c. With the addition of these instruments, did *gamelan* music sound traditional? If no, why?

1. Keyboards:
2. Acoustic Drums:
3. Electric bass:

d. Do you think that by adding instruments that come from different music traditions and styles will change the purpose of *gamelan* music? Why?

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e. If you had a choice of any musical instrument to add to the band, what would you add? How would this change the way the music sounds?

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Answer: Qn (c)

1. Keyboards – add Western harmony
2. Acoustic Drums – add beats other than the *gong*
3. Electric bass – adds bass line to the music

**Activity 5: 3, 2, 1**

Before concluding the lesson, think about the following.

1. Name 3 instruments from the *gamelan.*

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2. List 2 practices or traditions associated with the *gamelan*.

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3. What is 1 new thing you have discovered about mixing different music traditions/styles of music together?

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**Explore more:**

Play with *gamelan* instruments from your phone

* Search for: **Gamelan Gender Lite** (Apple Store)
* Search for: **Virtual Gamelan Bali** (Google Play Store)

Listen to *Music for 18 Musicians*. The American minimalist composer, Steve Reich, composed the piece of music as a homage to the Balinese *gamelan*. Watch and see why.

* Youtube: <https://youtu.be/ZXJWO2FQ16c>
* Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/3enbNUb>