

Asian Arts & Culture Program at the Fine Arts Center

UMassAmherst

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Sue McFarland, 413-577-2486 aacp@acad.umass.edu

WHAT: **Gamelan Galak Tika & Ensemble Robot: In Concert**

WHEN: **Friday, March 5 at 8 PM**

WHERE: **Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst**

TICKETS: **Fine Arts Center Box Office 545-2511/ 1-800-999-UMAS**

“a musical hybrid that expands the horizons of both music and humanity’s relation to machines!”...

Anne Midgette of the New York Times calls them “an exuberant blast of metal fireworks!” Western Massachusetts residents will have the rare opportunity to enjoy a unique concert where tradition meets innovative technology as the **Gamelan Galak Tika and special guests Ensemble Robot** perform on **Friday March 5 at 8PM in Bowker Auditorium**. Presented by the Asian Arts and Culture Program at the Fine Arts Center, reserved tickets are \$20 and \$15. Call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS or online at www.umasstix.com.

Gamelan Galak Tika is America's most innovative Balinese Gamelan. Led by composer Evan Ziporyn, Galak Tika has performed groundbreaking music at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, BAM, two Bang on a Can Marathons, at colleges all over New England and New York, and throughout Bali, Indonesia. Galak Tika was formed in 1993. Their name comes from the Balinese word, “Galak” meaning wild, fierce, or passionate, but has no clear Balinese sense when used with “tika.” However, the punning reference to the American science-fiction television series seems appropriate for this MIT gamelan ensemble, especially when one of the star performers is a robotic glockenspiel!

Ensemble Robot is a collective of artists, musicians, engineers, and programmers working together to make robotic musical instruments. Founded by Christine Southworth and Leila Hasan in 2003, the group has commissioned over

a dozen new works for humans and robots, and performed throughout the northeast at venues and festivals including The International Festival of Arts & Ideas, EMPAC and Wired Magazine NextFest.

This mix of musical hybrids is anchored by the dance of master Balinese artist, **I Made Bandem**. Widely regarded as the foremost living expert on traditional Balinese dance and drama, Dr. Bandem is descended from a long line of arja (Balinese opera) performers. In his native village of Singapadu, Bali, he was a well-known “Baris” dancer by the age of 10. In 1980, Dr. Bandem became the first Balinese artist to receive a PhD in ethnomusicology, from Wesleyan University. The champion of one of many near-lost classical forms, his mastery of these traditional dances is not to be missed!

Please see our website at www.fineartscenter.com/asian for additional information. Tickets available online: www.fineartscenter.com or by calling 1-800-999-UMAS or 413-545-2511. Downloadable high resolution photos and electronic versions of press releases for performance events are available at: <http://www.umass.edu/fac/asian/press.html>.

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