



# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: WORLD MUSIC 7



\*Gamelan originates from Indonesia and orchestras are common to the islands of Java, Madura, Bali, Lombok and other Sunda Islands



\*Indonesia is the large group of islands north of Australia and south of the Philippines

\*The term 'Gamelan' refers to either the set of instruments that make up the Gamelan orchestra, (or Gamelan ensemble), or the group of people playing the instruments

\*Typical Gamelan orchestras feature metallophones, xylophones, drums and gongs played with mallets



\*The word Gamelan comes from the Javanese word **gamel**, which refers to the type of mallet used to hit the instruments



\*Gamelan can be dated back thousands of years

\*Gamelan orchestras vary between islands and regions

\*Gamelan is still commonly played on formal occasions and in many traditional ceremonies although many other genres are popular in Indonesia such as rock and pop

\*The music of the Gamelan can induce a meditative state

## Instruments

A Javanese Gamelan ensemble may include **sarons** and **genders**. These are sets of metal bars laid out in rows and struck like a glockenspiel,



sets of large, drum-shaped gongs laid out horizontally on stands called **bonanas** and **kenongs**;



**Gambang**s (similar to *sarons* but with wooden bars);



and a variety of hanging **gongs** and **drums**



## Wayang—Shadow Puppets

\*Shadow puppetry is an ancient form of storytelling and entertainment which uses flat cut-out puppets called shadow puppets. The puppets are held behind a screen and a source of light which makes the puppets appear to walk, dance, talk, fight etc

\*In Indonesia, shadow puppet theatre is called **wayang**

\*Its origins can be traced back to medieval times when the religion *Hinduism* spread to Indonesia from southern India

\*Some performances last all night long!

\*A complete *Wayang* performance will include **dalang**—the puppet masters, **nayaga**—these are the *Gamelan* players and the **sinden**—female choral singers



## Recreate the Gamelan Style

Music is built around cyclic patterns—a repeated pattern—of 16 beats.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
G	A	G	A	C	D	C	D	G	E	D	C	E	G	A	G
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A glockenspiel can play the notes above. This tune is usually played on the saron. The arrow up means 'high' G and the arrow going down is 'low' E

This second part can be played on another glockenspiel, perhaps a larger one. Using the tune above but the numbers below (so 4 is still A) The 'O' is a rest

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
O	O	O	S	O	M	O	S	O	M	O	S	O	M	O	L

Using the above on 3 drums or 3 cymbals or bells. 'O' is a rest. 'SML' refer to 'small, medium, large'

Sit on the floor and don't forget to take your shoes off—this is a sign of respect