

## I. Gamelan

Native music, played by the Javanese on their indigenous instruments, is called *Gamelan*. The Javanese ensemble is a kind of exotic orchestra, consisting mainly of diversely shaped and constructed percussive instruments of metal, wood and bamboo, comprising various kinds and sizes of bells, chimes, gongs, sounding boards, bowls, pans, drums (some barrel-like), tom-toms, native xylophones, sonorous *alang-alang* (zephyr-like, aeolian harp-like) and other unique music implements. The only stringed instrument I could discern was the ancient, guitar-shaped *rebab*, which is held by the leader in a position similar to that of the lute.

Both rulers of the two Sultanates of central Java: the Susuhunan of Solo and the Sultan of Djokja, and the two independent princes, Manku Negoro of Solo and Paku Alam of Djokja, have the best, largest and most complete native orchestras (*Gamelan*). They own old instruments of inestimable value, the enchanting sonority of which is attributable to the mellowing process of time.

The sonority of the *Gamelan* is so weird, spectral, fantastic and bewitching, the native music so elusive, vague, shimmering and singular, that on listening to this new world of sound I lost my sense of reality, imagining myself in a realm of enchantment. Nothing seen or experienced in Java conveyed so strongly the mysterious and strange character of the island and its inhabitants.

The *Gamelan* produces most ethereal pianissimos, particularly entrancing when heard from a distance. It is like a perfume of sound, like a musical breeze. Usually the music, beginning very softly and languidly, becomes faster and louder as the movement progresses, rising, at last, to a barbaric climax.

In this, the first of the descriptive scenes, I have endeavored to recreate a *Gamelan* sonority – a typically Javanese atmosphere. Except for the one chromatic variation (pages 9-10), which is intentionally Occidental, the movement is almost exclusively diatonic and decidedly Oriental (Far Eastern).

# I. Gamelan

LEOPOLD GODOWSKY

Moderato, languido  $\text{♩} = 92-108$ 

Piano

Moderato, languido  $\text{♩} = 92-108$

*pp dolcissimo e tranquillo*

*una corda*

*ped.*

*pp*

*sempre pp*

*marcato, ma poco*

*ped.*

*v.*

*v.*

*v.*

*v.*

*legato*

poco a poco più mosso, ma sempre molto tranquillo  
sempre *pp*

1. Gamelan 4/10

*sempre pp*

*molto tranquillo*

*espr.*

*poco rit.*

R.W.

*rall.*  
*sempre pp a tempo*  
*Rew.*      *Rew.*      *Rew.*      *Rew.*  
  
*rall. a tempo*  
*molto crescendo*      *ed. accel.*  
*Rew.*      *Rew.*      *Rew.*      *Rew.*  
  
*martellato*  
*ff con fuoco e feroce = 126-144*  
*tre corde*  
*Rew.*      *Rew.*      *Rew.*      *Rew.*  
  
*Rew.*      *Rew.*      *Rew.*      *Rew.*

Sheet music for Gamelan instrument, featuring four staves of musical notation. The notation includes vertical stems with arrows pointing up or down, and horizontal strokes. Fingerings are indicated by numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and letters (A, B). Measure numbers (e.g., 3, 2, 1, 5) are placed above certain notes. A dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is shown. The music is divided into sections labeled "Rev.", "(Rev.)", and "(Rev.)". The bottom staff includes a tempo marking *sf* (sforzando) and a measure number 21.

Rev. Rev. Rev. Rev. (Rev.)

Rev. (Rev.) Rev. (Rev.)

*sf* ff (Rev.)

21

(Rev.)

(Rev.)

Musical score for Gamelan instrument, page 8, measures 18-25. The score consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a bass clef. The notation uses dots on vertical stems to represent pitch and horizontal strokes to represent duration. Measure 18: (Re.) The first staff has a 2/4 time signature. Measures 19-20: Re. The first staff has a 2/4 time signature. Measures 21-22: Re. The first staff has a 4/4 time signature. Measures 23-25: (Re.) The first staff has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 26: *sempre ff ed agitato*. The first staff has a 2/4 time signature. Measures 27-28: (Re.) The first staff has a 2/4 time signature. Measures 29-30: The first staff has a 4/4 time signature. Measures 31-32: The first staff has a 4/4 time signature. Measures 33-34: The first staff has a 4/4 time signature. Measures 35-36: The first staff has a 4/4 time signature.

*più animato*

Re. Re.

Re. Re. Re. Re.

Re.

molto dim. e rall.

una corda

Re. (Re.) (Re.) Re. Re.

$\text{♩} = 92 - 100$

*molto espressivo e più sostenuto*

*p molto tranquillo*

Re. Re. Re. (Re.) Re. (Re.) Re. (Re.) Re. (Re.) Re. (Re.) Re. (Re.)

*più rall.*

$\text{♩} = 92-100$

*pp*

*Re. (Re.) Re. Re. Re. Re. Re. Re. sempre pp*

*poco a poco più rall.*