

World Festival of Sacred Music- LA

presents

MUSIC & DANCE OF BALI- ÇUDAMANI

Sunday Feb 18 2018

The Broad Stage | Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center

1310 11st Street. Santa Monica, CA 90401

2pm. Family Matinee -designed for families with children. Tickets \$15-\$30

7pm. Full Concert- Cudamani presents BHUMI-Mother Earth. Tickets \$20-\$50

Website festivalofsacredmusic.org | EMAIL info@festivalofsacredmusic.org

[HI RES PHOTOS](#) [Video sample of work](#) [2018 California Tour Venues](#)

LOS ANGELES January 2018. The name Çudamani has many meanings including the third eye of Shiva-the destroyer of ignorance; the jewel and symbol of sincerity. Çudamani is Bali's premier music and dance troupe, which refines its art in the artist village of Pengosekan. The 25 member company, which the *Los Angeles Times* praised for its "*brilliant performers, stunning cohesion and superbly compelling*" is internationally celebrated as Bali's most forward thinking music and dance ensemble for making new work from classic ancient roots. Architects of Çudamani – Dewa Putu Berata and his wife Emiko Saraswati Susilo, have succeeded in doing what no one else has seemingly done. They have created a world class ensemble in a village and while in great demand, Çudamani does not perform for tourists in Bali, rather they perform primarily as a spiritual offering for temples. The ensemble has become a global benchmark for artistic creativity that is daring, classic and inventive.

As Mt. Agung Volcano rumbles beneath their feet, Çudamani prepares for their California Tour. This is their 20th Anniversary tour. **On Sunday Feb 18, 2018** the company performs two shows at The Broad Stage, Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center. **2PM Family Matinee invites children to experience their artistry in a family friendly environment. Then at 7PM the premiere of their full evening work BHUMI -MOTHER EARTH.**

Their new full-length work **BHUMI-MOTHER EARTH** based on the theme of nature. The themes for the California tour are not hypothetical, as the Hindu/Buddhist Balinese believe that *Ibu Pertiwi*

speaks to the human world through her actions. The life of the Balinese is filled with ceremonies which pay honor and respect to three worlds - the divine, the human and the natural. Hinduism is deeply and gently interwoven with Bali's sacred connection to the elements of the Earth and nature, resulting in a belief system that is uniquely Balinese Hinduism. The ultimate goal of any ritual and performance is to create and maintain harmony and balance between these worlds. The concert will bring these insights and spirit centered stories to the concert stage as only Cudamani can. It will transport audiences into the poetry, symbolism, music and splendor of Bali, celebrating both the exciting innovations and deeply rooted traditions of this complex and creative culture. This tour is organized and produced by the World Festival of Sacred Music-LA.

No other Balinese company tours with productions of this scale. The company performs a diverse repertoire ranging from rare classical forms of dance and music to highly creative works. Witness the shimmering poly rhythms of gamelan music and the dazzling brilliance of dancers filling the stage as every movement, gesture and musical note is crafted and executed with great technical precision and a glorious collective spirit, taking turns and complementing one another. Çudamani is known for their active pursuit of creating new music and dance works while also commissioning the revival of lost masterpieces. Their creative mission embraces the ancient and modern, global and spiritual. Even their instruments, a hybrid gamelan orchestra "Semarandana" created in the 1980s embodies the old and the new. **With 7 tones rather** than the usual 5, they have the freedom to play in rare court and ritual modes as well as find unique sounds for new compositions. This type of ensemble is still rare in Bali, and Çudamani is on the forefront of new orchestral sound. This tour will feature world premieres of new works by Bapak Nyoman Cerita, Dewa Putu Berata and Dewa Putu Rai.

[Çudamani](#) faces the reality of 4.7 million tourists visiting Bali each year. In response to the flood of touristic performance, in 1997, Artistic Director -Dewa Berata called together talented young people from different areas in Bali to form Sanggar (club) Çudamani. Maintaining the highest standards of excellence, Cudamani is unique in the region in that it performs primarily as a spiritual offering for temples and for the activities of their village community. However, as a way to disseminate their message and offer their members a chance for international travel, the senior company (18 years and older) have toured since 2002. They have performed in US, Canada, Italy, Greece, Netherlands, and Japan. Many master musicians, scholars and ethnomusicologists from around the world turn to Cudamani as creative collaborators. CUDAMANI.ORG

PRESS

Brilliant performers, stunning cohesion... superbly coordinated... compellingly entertaining ...— LA Times ... a complex and stunning display of Bali's creative achievements. — Savannah Now

I realized that it (Odalan Bali) had gently gotten under my skin in haunting ways and that I was experiencing something much deeper than entertainment or cross-cultural exchange. **Dance View Times**

EDUCATION and the socialization of youth is central to Cudamani's mission. Their Sanggar has ongoing music and dance instruction for different age groups free to any child wishing to seriously study. These young artists offer their music and dance as a form of prayer in temple ceremonies and village events and their contribution is both a benefit and point of pride to everyone in the village. Of special importance is the serious training of their girls gamelan group. Many say they have set a high bar of excellence for other groups in Bali. Cudamani youth groups have been invited to the prestigious Bali Arts Festival where the children perform before audiences of 3000 with technical precision, artistic excellence, and incredible spirit and cohesion. As with the senior company, the children of Cudamani have a island wide reputation. Indeed, many of these children find their way to the senior company.

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

I Dewa Putu Berata- Director. Born and raised in the village of Pengosekan, son of a master drummer, Dewa was immersed in Balinese performing arts from birth. His father was founding member of Pengosekan's first gamelan group encouraging the village farmers during the 1950's to pool surplus from the rice harvest in order to acquire one instrument at a time. Dewa's creative talents, teaching capabilities and leadership qualities make him a noted figure in the Balinese music world. He is renowned for his compositional skills in both traditional and innovative styles and a rare ability to communicate a diverse knowledge of Balinese arts to both Balinese and international artists. He is founder and director of Çudamani, and has lead Çudamani, on tours to venues including The Jazz at Lincoln Center (NY), World Festival of Sacred Music-(LA), Cultural Olympiad (Greece), EXPO (Japan) and the Tong Tong Festival (Holland) among others. As a result of his vision, Çudamani, has become an important artistic center in Bali, endeavoring to study and preserve rare classic forms of Balinese arts and also provide a space that nurtures the creative energies of young artists in Bali. He is a graduate of STSI, Denpasar (Bali's National Academy of the Arts). Currently Dewa serves as the Guest Music Director of the Berkeley, CA based Gamelan Sekar Jaya.

Emiko Saraswati Susilo- Associate Director. Susilo was born in Honolulu, Hawai'i and raised in a family rich with the arts. She began her study of Balinese dance with Ibu Ni Made Wiratini and her study of Javanese dance with late Master Rama Sasminta Mardawa, teacher of the Court of Yogyakarta. She is a gamelan/vocal student of Bp. Tri Haryanto and Ki Midiyanto. Susilo is a founding member of Çudamani and has been a core leader since the group's inception. She works closely with

Çudamani's senior dance students, master dance teachers, performers preparing for tour and the groundbreaking girls gamelan program. Susilo has a deep love of bringing together traditional and contemporary forms and ideas across the disciplines of dance, music, voice and visual arts. She received her BA from UC Berkeley's Dept. of Anthropology and her MA from the University of Hawaii's Dept. of Asian Studies. Emiko served as Director of Berkeley based Gamelan Sekar Jaya from 2011 to 2017.

The World Festival of Sacred Music-Los Angeles (WFSM-LA), a project of the **Foundation for World Arts (FWA)**, is based on the belief that music and dance have the ability to bring forth our shared human desire for peace, understanding and respect for all living things. The city wide **WFSM** began in 1999 and continued in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011. In 2015 the festival launched the **Aratani World Series** (2015-2017) an annual concert series at the JACCC Aratani Theatre in Los Angeles. The FWA has supported the work of Cudamani since its inception 20 years ago.

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