

Tembang Alit

Jaya Suprana was born in Denpasar, Bali on January 27, 1949 as Chinese descendant but grew up within Javanese Culture. He studied music at Musikhochschule Münster and Folkwang-Hochschule Essen, West Germany, between 1967 and 1976, and since then has given piano recitals worldwide, as well as composing his own music. *Tembang Alit* was the first work, which Jaya Suprana wrote out in musical notation in 1984. Ever since, many compositions have been produced and published in the form of scores. Born in Bali and now residing in Semarang – Central Java, *Gending Tembang Alit* seems to depict the very soul of Jaya Suprana.

The piece opens with a soft Javanese tune in slow tempo and later changes suddenly into Balinese nuances full of colours and a typical energetic Balinese rhythm. In this song there are parts that have the sound of “Saron” (measures 46 – 50). “Saron” is a musical instrument of Indonesia, which is used in the Gamelan. It is a metallophone with six or seven keys placed on a wooden frame, which serves as a resonator. The Saron instruments produce sound when struck with a mallet made of wood or horn.