



KEY  
VOCABULARY

percussion

musical instruments that are **hit** or **shaken** to make a sound

Gamelan

a **traditional Indonesian percussion orchestra**

pitch

how **high** or **low** a sound is

melody

the **combination of pitch and rhythm** to create a **tune**

balungan

a **melody** upon which Gamalen music is based. The balungan uses either a **5-note scale (slendro)** or a **7-note scale (pelog)**

pentatonic

a **scale** which uses only **5 notes** from the 7 available notes in the normal scale

texture

when music has **parts layered on top of each other**



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Indonesia (pictured in red)  
which includes the islands of  
Java and Bali

Image: Fir002/Flagstaffphotos (GFDL 1.2)



Traditional Indonesian metallophones (percussion instrument)

Image: Culture history (CC BY-SA 4.0)



Traditional Indonesian gongs (percussion instrument)

Image: Culture history (CC BY-SA 4.0)



Kendhang drum – the instrument that leads gamelan music

Image: Gunawan Kartapranata (CC BY-SA 3.0)



Musicians playing the Gamelan