



Virtual Keroncong Music Performances As An Effort To Maintain Their Existence During The Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

The emergence of experimental music is marked by the presence of the figure of John Cage in the 19th century which in music history is often referred to as the period of Modern Music. John Cage is a composer who is full of controversy because his works are experimental and out of the rules contained in music in previous eras such as baroque, classical and romantic eras. One of his most famous works is "4.33" this work is a piano piece complete with sheet music and performed live but the pianist does not play a single note, and only opens and closes the piano according to the direction of the sheet music. The presence of Cage's figure has inspired many people, especially myself. Inspired by experimental music composers, I decided to create a piece of music that combines music with Balinese painting called Karang Boma. This work will be realized in the form of sheet music and midi art. The method of creation used by the author in Karang Boma's musical works refers to the Panducita Subagaprana Theory, this theory is divided into four namely: Pandulame (imagination), Adicita (Idea), Subagalango (Art Composition), and Pranayuga (External Trend/Tendency).

INTRODUCTION

History is a study of the past, this study is the result of research made to determine the development of the era or the origin of an object or event. In the book *Historical Research Methods* written by Wasino it is said that, history means: events that are made by humans or that affect humans, changes or events that change from one situation to another (Wasino: 2018). Likewise with art, especially the art of music according to the history of music written by Karl-Edmund has developed from the Egyptian era which is estimated to have started in 2000 BC.

In his book entitled *History of Music* from volumes 1-4, Edmund has described in a complex way the development of music from 2000 BC to the present. From the four volumes of this book the author concludes that in general the development of music can be grouped into several eras, namely ancient music, medieval music, renaissance music, baroque music, classical music, romantic music, impressionist and symbolic music, and 20th century music. / modern era which is also further divided into several groups.

One type of music that developed in the modern era or in the 20th century is experimental music initiated by John Cage. The following is the definition of the term "experimental music" according to John Cage.

What is the nature of any of the experimental measures? This is an action, the outcome of which is unpredictable. In this case it is very conducive if a composer has decided that he wants the sounds to only materialize for himself than the sounds can be exploited for various expressions, emotions and shadows of one's regularities." (Mark, 2014:100).

From the above understanding, the author is increasingly interested in experimental music so that in this thesis the author wants to try to experiment with combining music with painting. In this case, the author found two ways that might be used to realize this work, namely first by transcribing images into musical scores, and the second way by transcribing images into MIDI art.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The History of Experimental Music and Painting-Based Music in Panducita Subagaprana's Theory

1. Pandulame (Imagination)

In his research entitled *The theory and methods of creativity in the Sanggit/Kawi Dalang Tradition-Based Art*, I Nyoman Sedana stated a theory called "Panducita Subagaprana" which was divided into four namely Pandulame, Adicita, Subagalango, and Pranayuga. Pandulame is a source of imagination, fantasy and contemplation (Sedana, 2021:58). The author tries to create something from things that the author likes, apart from being a musician the writer is also interested in fine arts, especially painting, so in his imagination the author wants to create a musical work based on painting. After doing some research, the author finally found several composers who experimented with music combined with pictures or paintings. As a child, the author really liked Balinese paintings, because of that the author decided to make a musical work based on a typical Balinese painting, namely Karang Boma.

2. Adicita (Idea)

The second theory contained in Panducita Subagaprana is Adicita. Adicita means ideas, inspiration and aspirations, intuition or aesthetic instincts (Sedana, 2021: 64). In this case, the author is inspired by an experimental music figure,

namely John Cage and also Noam Oxman. The term in American culture that emerged from the presence of John Cage is "experiment". This term is said to require various details in advance because in the view of popular music, anything unusual is generally called "experiment". Experiment is defined as everything that is experimental or something that is not yet stable. The presence of Cage's figure is a breath of fresh air for the artists in their work, where the works of Cage itself are indeed very different from the works that have existed before.

Some of the works that can be said to be very different from other composers are, his work entitled "4.33" which does not make sound from the player, "prepared piano" plugging screws between strings or pieces of plastic, paper, rubber, eraser etc. which produces percussion sounds, then "mesostics for merce cunningham" is a work made by choosing letters or words from a text by chance technique which is then written or notated with various letter forms (large, small, thick and thin interpreted as dynamics), and the last one is Cage's work entitled As Slow As Possible (ASLSP) which is the music with the longest duration in the world for 639 years, played by the automatic organ symposium at the Burchadi Church in Germany.

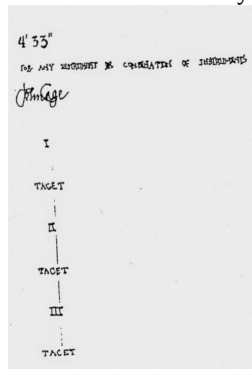


Figure 1 (John Cage, 4. 33')



Figure 2 (John Cage, Mesostics for Cunnningham)

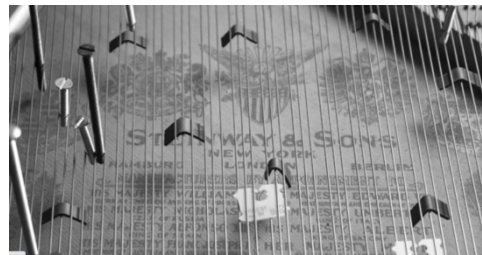


Figure 3 (John Cage, Prepared Piano)

The works above are experimental musical works which are certainly very different from the works that existed in previous eras such as baroque, classical, romantic and also impressionist. Cage has given a new color to the history of world music, until now experimental music is growing. A composer from Jerusalem named Noam Oxman developed an experiment on his music by combining music with paintings or pictures of animals. The process of making and the atmosphere of the music is adjusted to the characteristics of the animal, here are the notes or scores produced.



Figure 4 (Noam Oxman, Piano Quartail no.1 in A major)



Figure 5 (Noam Oxman, String Quartail no.1 in C major)

The two pictures above are two examples of music made by transcribing a picture or painting into a sheet music. In addition, the development of the current era is also inseparable from digital technology, in music often uses the term MIDI or Musical Instrument Digital Interface which is used to create music. The MIDI display generally on the left has a piano instrument used to draw notes, but nowadays some people use it as a medium for drawing, here are some examples of images produced from MIDI.



The image above proves that we can combine music with images into one. Inspired by the examples above, the writer wants to create music by combining the image of karang boma into the music. Karang Boma is a painting visualized from Hindu philosophy in the form of a giant head which is depicted from the neck up complete with a crown decoration. It is said that this boma karang is believed to be a destroyer or a repellent to all dangers. Generally, karang boma can be found in sacred Hindu buildings or in temples. The author is interested in choosing this karang boma, apart from its philosophy which is said to be able to ward off danger, also because according to the author, this karang boma is a Balinese ornament that with one glance people will know that it is an ornament from Bali.

3. Subagalango (Art Composition)
Subagalango is the concept of selection, adoption/adaptation, artistic elements/preferred plots (Sedana, 2021: 76). In choosing things that he likes, the author chooses the karang boma painting as the basis for this musical work. The following is a painting of Karang Boma.



Figure 6. Karang Boma

The picture above is an engraving of karang boma that the author will try to transcribe into music. This merger can also be said to be a hybrid process that combines music with images or combines western music culture with Balinese painting ornaments.

Cross culture in the world of music is also often referred to as hybrid music. In the context of hybrid music, the main target is to cross two musical genres as superior varieties that can produce new musical

varieties that are distinctive, unique, and characterize their advantages. The results of these new productions are often considered as art products of acculturation. In the context of acculturation music, it is emphasized that the Kobagi represents two cultural elements born from a certain process of forming art that fuses but still embodies foreign (global) cultural elements with native (local) cultural elements. (Sudirga, 2020:49).

The above statement is in line with what Friar said in his dissertation "What is happening now involves cross-fertilization between genres on a deeper level, and would more aptly be called hybridization." Which means what's happening now involves cross-fertilization between genres at a deeper level, it would more accurately be called hybridization. In the design of this thesis, the author tries to hybridize western music with Balinese painting ornaments.

4. Pranayuga (External Trend/Tendency)

Pranayuga is also said to be the adoption of the soul or voice of the times, rumors, phenomena, gossip, trending styles that are continuously adopted into artistic expression throughout the ages (Sedana, 2021: 77). The elements adopted give historical identity to the art in question. The sound of this era or trend is an interesting thing to discuss, because we live in an era that is constantly changing, if we can't keep up with developments, we will be left behind. Likewise with art, as in the past a composer wrote his compositions by hand, while along with the development of the era, composers have now made it easier to compose music with a computer.

Initially the use of computers in musical composition as in the past, namely transcribing into notation, but now people like to make music that imitates pictures or writing. Like some examples of images that

have been listed above, it proves that we all evolve according to the times.

CONCLUSION

The emergence of experimental music is marked by the presence of the figure of John Cage in the 19th century which in music history is often referred to as the period of Modern Music. John Cage is a composer who is full of controversy because his works are experimental and out of the rules contained in music in previous eras such as baroque, classical and romantic eras. One of his most famous works is "4.33" this work is a piano piece complete with sheet music and performed live but the pianist does not play a single note, and only opens and closes the piano according to the direction of the sheet music. The presence of Cage's figure has inspired many people, especially myself. Inspired by experimental music composers, I decided to create a piece of music that combines music with Balinese painting called Karang Boma. This work will be realized in the form of sheet music and midi art. The method of creation used by the author in Karang Boma's musical works refers to the Panducita Subagaprana Theory, this theory is divided into four namely: Pandulame, Adicita, Subagalango, and Pranayuga.

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