



## The Performance of Killer of Gods Band in Semarang

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### Abstract

*Killer of Gods, also known as KOG, has participated in events such as Rockin Solo and Jakarta. The performance style of KOG has successfully created an energetic atmosphere on stage, and captivated the audience with the use of dynamic lighting to enhance the musical experience. This research aimed to explore the performance format of the band Killer of Gods, serving as a reference for musicians and other researchers. The study employed a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Data collection was conducted through observation, interviews, and documentation. Data validity was ensured through triangulation. The data analysis process involved data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The performance format of Killer of Gods consists of two aspects, namely composition and presentation. The composition aspect includes rhythm, melody, harmony, instruments, lyrics, arrangement, formation, and performance elements. Meanwhile, the presentation aspect includes stage design, sound system, lighting, makeup, performance timing, and music presentation. In addition, Killer of Gods exclusively performs their own compositions during their music performances.*

### Keywords:

*Form of performance, band,  
Killer of Gods*

## INTRODUCTION

Music, as defined in the Indonesian dictionary (*Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*) (Departemen Pendidikan Nasional, 2011, p. 942), is: (1) The science or art of arranging tones or sounds in a sequence, combination, and temporal relationship to produce a composition (sound) that has unity and coherence; (2) Tones or sounds arranged in such a way that they contain rhythm, melody, and harmony (especially when using instruments that produce those sounds). According to Sunarko (1985, p. 5), the concept of music involves the expression of human emotions manifested in an orderly sound form with melody, rhythm, and elements of beautiful harmony.

Music takes on various forms of presentation, some performed solo and others in groups. The form of presentation also reflects how a music creator intends to convey their work to the public. In other words, the delivery of the message through music also considers the manner of presentation. One of the group-based forms of presentation in music is a band. Typically, a band consists of vocals, guitars, bass, drums, and keyboards. Each band has its own performance concept, such as a band called Killer of Gods.

Killer of Gods is an old school brutal death metal band, which is a subgenre of death metal. The band is from the city of Semarang. Killer Of Gods was formed on February 3, 2011. Initially, the band consisted of Arga as the vocalist, Indra as the guitarist, Raga as the bassist, and Yusuf as the drummer. However, over time, there have been changes in the band's lineup, particularly in the positions of the guitarist, bassist, and vocalist. In other words, only Yusuf, the drummer,

remained from the original formation. The new lineup includes Albim as the bassist, Afrizal as the vocalist, and Pino as the guitarist.

Djarumcoklat.com wrote that Killer of Gods, also known as KOG, has participated in events such as Rockin Solo and Jakarta. They have also toured the island of Java. In addition, KOG has successfully become a candidate in one of the most prestigious events in the world of heavy music, the "Wacken Metal Battle Indonesia" in 2022. If they pass the audition, KOG will represent Indonesia at the "Wacken Metal Battle" event in Germany. One unique aspect of KOG is their distinctive musical style, which is more easily accessible compared to other death metal bands.

Killer of Gods has achieved various accomplishments. Among them is representing Indonesia in the Wacken Metal Battle event. They also have released three albums that are available in other countries, as quoted from djarumcoklat.com. These achievements have sparked interest among the researchers to study the performance aspects of the band Killer of Gods in Semarang.

## METHOD

This research was conducted using the phenomenological research model with a qualitative approach. The phenomenological research model is the study of knowledge that originates from phenomena, or the way of understanding an object or event by consciously experiencing it (Hasbiansyah, 2008). Furthermore, the qualitative approach is a research approach based on post-positivist philosophy, used to investigate naturalistic object conditions (in contrast to experiments), where the

researcher serves as the key instrument. Data sampling was done purposively and through snowballin. Data collection techniques involved triangulation (combination). Data analysis was inductive/qualitative in nature, and qualitative research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization (Sugiyono, 2013)

Sidiq et al., (2019) mention that data collection techniques consist of observation, interviews, and documentation. These three techniques were employed with the band Killer of Gods as the research subject. Observation in this study was conducted to observe the performance aspects of the band Killer of Gods. Interviews were conducted with the band's leader, Muhammad Yasin Yusuf, to gather data regarding the band's performance. Documentation was utilized to obtain data in the form of photos or videos related to the performance of Killer of Gods. Subsequently, after the data was collected, data analysis was done. The data analysis process was conducted gradually, starting with data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Once the data was analyzed, verification of the research data was conducted. Verification or data validity in this study was achieved through the use of triangulation techniques.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### *Killer of Gods Band Performance*

Killer of Gods is one of the music groups in Semarang, Central Java. The band was formed on February 3, 2011. The band was formed because its members shared the same passion for music while attending SMK 4 Semarang, which became the background for the formation of the

band. Until now, the band continues to exist and create, as evidenced by their recent works and several performances held after the pandemic. Despite being affected by the pandemic, Killer of Gods remains consistent in their commitment to create and pursue a career in the field of music.

### *Killer of Gods Music Composition*

Composition is an aspect that determines the success of Killer of Gods' works in their performances, where the aspects within their composition are arranged and form a harmonious unity. The composition aspect of the band includes rhythm, melody, harmony, instruments, lyrics, arrangement, formation, and the different components in their musical presentation.

#### 1. Rhythm

Rhythm is a sequence of pitch movements that serves as the fundamental element in music. It is formed by a series of sounds with varying lengths and different levels of strength. As explained by Kumalasari et al. (2019), rhythm is a sequence of pitch movements that serves as the basic element in music. In music, rhythm is formed by a group of sounds with various durations and lengths. Rhythm is composed based on beats, consisting of strong and weak beats.



Figure 1. The drum rhythm of Killer of Gods  
(Source: Aprilliano, 2022)

The drum intro part of Killer of Gods' single titled "Semesta" is

composed of rhythms with different note values. Based on the notation, the first and second bars consist of 1/8 and 1/16 notes, then there is a change in the third measure with notes of 1/8 and 1/32 values, and in the following bars, it returns to the initial pattern. These changes in note values form the rhythm of Killer of Gods' composition, add variation to the music, and prevent it from sounding monotonous.



Figure 2. The guitar rhythm of Killer of Gods  
(Source: Aprilliano, 2022)

The guitar playing in Killer of Gods' song "Semesta" is characterized by varied melodies and different rhythms in each bar. The guitar notation consists mainly of 1/8 and 1/16 note values, unlike the drum patterns that include 1/32 note values. The guitar rhythm is also influenced by the drumming, ensuring that both instruments work together in harmony to create a cohesive sound.

## 2. Melody

Melody is a sequence of notes arranged into a cohesive musical phrase, where the notes are heard in succession. As explained by Jamalusi (1988), melody is a composition of a series of consecutive, rhythmical sounds that express a concept or idea.

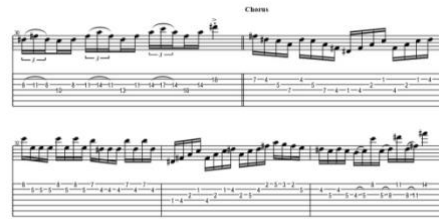


Figure 3. The guitar melody of Killer of Gods  
(Source: Aprilliano, 2022)

The score above is a section of the guitar melody in the song 'Semesta' (Universe). In this excerpt of the score, there is the word 'chorus,' which means that it is played during the chorus part. The chorus represents the core message or the essence of the song. The chorus utilizes a different and more comfortable melody pattern compared to the verse, and the chords used are also different from the verse (Kumalasari et al., 2019). The melodic composition consists of notes with a value of 1/8 and 1/16. There are several musical symbols such as legato, which means played smoothly, the '#' symbol indicating a half-step increase in pitch, and the accent symbol '>' indicating emphasis on the note.

## 3. Harmony

Harmony is one of the branches of music that studies the combination of several notes played together in harmony and with beauty within it. Banoe (2003) states that harmony is a branch of music science that discusses and talks about the beauty of musical composition.



Figure 4. The guitar harmony of Killer of Gods

(Source: Aprilliano, 2022)

The harmony in the guitar of Killer of Gods, used as an accompaniment to the vocal melody, exhibits variations in playing. In the score, there are parts where two notes are played simultaneously, as well as several notes played alternately, similar to playing a melody. These accompaniment variations give the music of Killer of Gods more character, making it more interesting to listen to and preventing monotony.

#### 4. Musical Instruments

The musical instruments and equipment required for Killer of Gods band's performance include: 1) a Shure 58 microphone for amplification, 2) a Jackson flying V Efx NUX MG300 guitar, 3) a Rockwell bass guitar, and 4) a Tama Rockstar 80 drum set. In terms of cymbals, they use 5) a Zildjian zbt 12" hi-hat, 6) a Sabian Ozone 15" crash, 7) a Staggs 16" crash, and 8) an 18" crash cymbal from Paiste. In addition, they have 9) a Sabian HHX 21" ride cymbal, 10) a Wuhan Handmade 16" China cymbal, and 11) a Nebulae Galaxy left China cymbal. These instruments and equipment are essential for creating the sound and performance style of the band Killer of Gods.

#### 5. Lyrics

The band Killer of Gods expresses their thoughts and emotions through their works, conveying them to the listeners, particularly those who are fans of death metal music.

*"Gumpalan darah dan tanah  
Menjadi bentuk yang sempurna  
Bukanlah tanpa tujuan  
Melainkan dengan harapan yang jelas  
Menjadikan sampah semua!"*

(Translation: "Clots of blood and soil

Transform into perfect forms

Not without purpose  
But with clear aspirations  
Turning all into waste!")

This verse represents a type of figurative verse. Figurative verses can contain figures of speech or satire towards specific events (Aritonang et al., 2020). The song titled "Semesta" expresses the songwriter's feeling of disappointment, which arises from the increasingly deteriorating universe. It is being destroyed solely for the sake of a few individuals, without considering its consequences. Songs by the band Killer of Gods often express disappointment towards a select few who exploit their positions, causing harm to the common people in pursuit of money and power.

#### 6. Arrangement

In every performance, the band Killer of Gods never performs songs from other bands. The songs they perform are their own writings along with their arrangements. According to Kusumawati (2016, p. 33), arrangement is a creative activity that involves transforming and developing musical elements into a new work. Based on this, the arrangements done by the band KOG include instrumental and vocal arrangements for their own songs.

The reason why the band Killer of Gods never performs songs from other bands is that they don't want to be labeled or categorized by society as a band that covers songs from other bands. Therefore, they have decided to only perform songs from their own writings. In addition, Killer of Gods wants to be recognized by the public through their own works, so that they have a distinct characteristic that every listener can remember.

#### 7. Formation

The formation used in Killer of Gods band's performances is 3-1. There are three players at the front, with the arrangement (from the audience's

perspective) having the bass player on the right side, the guitar player on the left side, and the vocalist occupying the central position. Meanwhile, at the back, the drummer takes the place. Although the drummer is positioned at the back, he is not obstructed by the players in the front row, allowing all the players in the performance to be clearly visible. In the formation of Killer of Gods band's performance, the drummer, despite being at the back, will be given space to play a drum solo towards the end as a sign of concluding the music performance by Killer of Gods band.



Figure 5. Killer of Gods Formation  
(Source: Aprilliano, 2022)

### ***Killer of Gods Music Presentation***

The presentation elements of Killer of Gods band include stage setup, sound arrangement, lighting arrangement, costume design, makeup design, performance timing, and music presentation. In this research, the researchers observed Killer of Gods band's performance on December 10, 2022, at Bunker Café in Semarang City, as well as through the Killer of Gods' YouTube platform on the songs titled "Semesta" and "Moronation." However, in this research, the researchers focused more on the observation results from Killer of Gods' live performance.

#### **1. Stage Set**

The stage used in the performance has 4 monitors, with 3

positioned at the front and 1 at the back. In addition to the monitors used to assist each player, there are also ampli returns for the bass and guitar, as well as an additional channel on the mixer. The Killer of Gods team also sets up 3 video cameras, comprising 2 standby cameras and 1 moving camera, to document the entire duration of the performance. These recordings are edited and shared with the public through their social media platforms.

#### **2. Sound System**

The sound arrangement in Killer of Gods band's performance is managed by Muhamad Lutfi Al Hakim, who is a part of the sound team. The purpose of sound arrangement is to ensure a balanced and harmonious sound output from vocals and musical instruments, while importantly avoiding any noise disturbances during the performance. As stated by Isnaini (2016), sound arrangement involves techniques for controlling sound or audio in a performance. This includes microphone placement, cables, mixer settings, signal processors, sound effects, amplifiers, and speakers as a whole. Killer of Gods band's sound arrangement includes 4 monitors, Sound Out: sub-4, and Yamaha dsr 15x2 2pcs Mixer Allen Heath Series I live 64 Ch. These equipment are essential for supporting the success of Killer of Gods band's music performance and should be present during the show.

#### **3. Lighting Design**

The band Killer of Gods incorporates Lighting Parled and Moving/Beam with a red color scheme in their performances. The use of color in their lighting design is aligned with the concept of Killer of Gods' music. The color red symbolizes power and

strong emotions, and it has become a distinctive feature of Killer of Gods' performances, making it easier to remember and recognize them by the audience, especially the fans of death metal music. The color purple, which signifies mystery, is displayed towards the end of a song. Without the presence of lighting design in their music performances, the atmosphere of the show would be less optimal. Apart from enhancing the ambiance during the performance, the use of lighting design also serves the purpose of adding beauty to the documentation of the show. The more vibrant the lighting setup is, the more appealing the documentation results will be. This aspect is given great attention because the documentation serves as one of the means to promote and introduce Killer of Gods through their social media platforms.



Figure 6. Killer of Gods Lighting Design  
(Source: Aprilliano, 2022)

#### 4. Costumes

The costumes worn by the members of Killer of Gods during their performances are the attire they wear while the show is taking place. As explained by Rosari, costumes refer to all the clothing and accessories worn on stage (Rosari, 2013). In their appearance at the Globalist Controller Fest, which took place on December 10, 2022, at Bunker Café in Semarang, the musicians wore black t-shirts, cargo pants, and sneakers to create a cohesive and contemporary look. The choice of

costumes is also in line with the musical character of Killer of Gods, as they are a death metal band known for their energetic stage presence. Therefore, the clothing needs to be comfortable for extensive movement.



Figure 7. Killer of Gods Costumes  
(Source: Aprilliano, 2022)

#### 5. Makeup

Killer of Gods does not use makeup in their performances, primarily because all the members of the band are male. In an interview with Muhammad Yasin Yusuf, the leader of Killer of Gods, he said that they never use any kind of makeup, such as powder or foundation, in their performances. Moreover, they feel that using makeup in a death metal band may not be suitable. Killer of Gods prioritizes their costume appearance rather than relying on makeup.

#### 6. Performance Timing

The performance by Killer of Gods took place on the evening of December 10, 2022. The timing of the performance was determined based on the local community's situation, as it was believed that more enthusiasts would be able to attend the show if it was held in the evening. The event was organized with a pre-planned rundown that outlined the activities from the beginning of the event until its conclusion.

#### 7. Repertoire



In every performance, Killer of Gods always showcases their original songs. In other words, they never perform songs from other bands, such as cover songs. This is because Killer of Gods' goal is to promote their own work to the audience. In short, as a death metal band, Killer of Gods focuses solely on performing their own original songs and does not include songs from other artists in their repertoire.

#### 8. Musical Packaging

The musical packaging of Killer of Gods in each of their works always includes compositions with new concepts. Their music incorporates various techniques such as mental assault, breakdowns for circle pits, full guttural vocals, bass with high gain tuning A, guitar tuning A (low tuning), full blastbeat moronation on drums, asymmetrical time signatures, growling vocal techniques, bass tuning A, and guitar tuning A. These techniques give Killer of Gods' music its own distinctive character, and ensure that their creations always have a fresh atmosphere in terms of themes and musical techniques, making them sound interesting and avoiding monotony.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The band Killer of Gods has two aspects in their performance, namely the composition aspect and the presentation aspect. The composition aspect includes rhythm, melody, harmony, instruments, lyrics, arrangement, formation, and performance sections. Meanwhile, the presentation aspect includes stage setup, sound setup, lighting setup, makeup and costumes, performance timing, and material presentation. In

addition to these two aspects, the music performance of the band Killer of Gods always includes their own original compositions and never performs the works of others.

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