

Irama (1984)

IRAMA (1984) for nine percussionists and piano by Jan Rokus van Rosendael was composed after he came into contact with the Gamelan music of Java and Bali. The composition is therefore inspired by Gamelan music. The form, consisting of seven parts, is symmetric. The first and the seventh parts are for the entire ensemble, the second and sixth parts are for the drums, the third and fifth parts are for high piano and the metallophones and the middle section, the fourth part is once again for the entire ensemble. A number of principles belonging to Gamelan music are incorporated in this composition, such as a cyclical Gong structure, cues in the large drum for the introduction of a new Gong cycle and various tempo levels (Iramas) for each part. Also accelerations and decelerations in the Gong cycle are used in order to enter a new Irama. There is as well a question of static tonal material and interlocking patterns.

In the end the composition **IRAMA** is not an imitation of Indonesian Gamelan music, but forms an entirely new composition.

Source: Toelichting Rotterdamse Kunststichting - concert 16 June 1991

'Exotiek, de gamelan en het moderne westerse componeren'

Performers: Hans Eysackers (piano) and Percussion Group Royal Conservatory of the Hague