

Friends of the Gamelan



Gamelan in the Garden

**Saturday, August 12, 2017
4 PM**

FREE CONCERT

**Humboldt Park Formal Garden
1440 North Sacramento, Chicago**

ChicagoGamelan.org

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www.chicagogamelan.org



FRIENDS OF THE GAMELAN

a community ensemble dedicated to the performance & pedagogy of traditional & contemporary music for Javanese gamelan since 1980

Friends of the Gamelan, affectionately known as FROG, traces its roots to the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, held in Chicago. One of the many exotic attractions on the Midway Plaisance was the Java Village, complete with a Sundanese gamelan. Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History was founded to preserve, catalog, and exhibit the many cultural treasures from the Exposition, including the gamelan. In the late 1970s, a group began to meet regularly at the Field Museum to play on those very instruments. FROG formed in 1980 as a not-for-profit educational organization with the purpose of purchasing a Javanese gamelan for pedagogy and performance to continue the work begun at the Field Museum.

Those early beginnings have grown into an ensemble that offers workshops and performs regularly in the Chicago area and beyond. FROG still owns and performs on the two-tuning iron gamelan set purchased in 1980, *Gamelan Nyai Panjang Sari*, and it also acquired a magnificent two-tuning bronze set in 2000, *Gamelan Sri Sedana*.

Ensemble members are gamelan enthusiasts or are approaching gamelan for the first time this year; are classically trained in western tradition or have no previous musical background; are students, teachers, composers, film makers, lawyers, managers, artists, and computer scientists. What we share is an interest in exploring other cultures through music.

FROG's repertoire is rich and diverse, spanning everything from centuries-old, traditional Javanese compositions to contemporary works, some of them written by FROG's own members. We often work with Javanese dancers and internationally recognized gamelan masters.

Periodically, FROG offers a free session of introductory gamelan classes to anyone who is interested. Classes are generally held on Tuesday evenings prior to 7 P.M. ensemble rehearsals. Consult FROG's website for more details. FROG also partners with the Old Town School of Folk Music to offer gamelan classes at the Lincoln Square location.

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