Performance Notes and Pronunciation Guide by Brent C. Talbot

PERFORMANCE NOTES

This charming set is designed to capture the nostalgia of three well-known folk melodies sung across the island of Bali, Indonesia. Part of a research study by Dr. Brent C. Talbot conducted for the highly-acclaimed indigenous-centering resource, *Gending Raré: Children's Songs and Games from Bali* (available through GIA), the songs are arranged for treble voices by Matt Carlson, a long-time collaborator of Talbot's. Carlson's piano accompaniments reflect compositional techniques of Balinese *gamelan*, the traditional instrumental music played across the Indonesian archipelago. Melodies in the right hand represent the varied octaves of *gangsas* (metallic barred instruments). Extended lower octaves in the left hand function as the *gong*, which is used to mark cycles within gamelan music.

Each arrangement draws upon primary sources, including video and audio of adolescents in Banjar Wani, a village located in the community of Kerambitan in the Tabanan Regency of West Bali. Source material also comes from recordings of the *Sanggar Kukuruyuk* program in the capital city of Denpasar, directed by master storyteller and children's television host, Made Taro. For further cultural context, as well as information about other beloved Balmese melodies and children's games, visit *balimusicbook.com*.

BALINESE PRONUNCIATION & TRANSLATION

Please see Alfred's IRA Made Easy (12789) for further explanation of the International Phonetic Alphabet.

1. Juru Pencar

Juru pencar,

[dzu-ru pen-tfar] (Fisherman, throw the ne

ialan luas

dzu-lan lu-at (I invite you)

mencar ngejuk ebe.

[mɛn-tʃa ŋgə-dʒʊk ə-be] (to go catch the fish.)

Ebe gede gede

[ə-be gı-de gı-de] (There are a lot of big fish)

di sowa ne ajaka liu.

[di so-wa ne a-dʒək-a li-u] (at the mouth of the river.)

2. Jenggot Uban

Kaki kaki,

[Ka-ki ka-ki] (Grandfather,)

to nguda mabok

[tə ŋgu-djə mə-bo] (silent k) (why do you have so much hair)

dibeten cunguhe ken di jagut te?

[di-bə-tɛn tʃu-ŋu-e kɛn di dʒa-gu te] (under your nose and on your chin?)

Neked ke pipine be misi ebok

[nə-kəd kə pi-pi-nə bε mi-si e-bok] (You also have lots of hair on your cheek)

buin putih buka kapase.

[bu-In pu-teh bu-ka ka-pa-se] (that is all white like cotton.)

3. Putri Cening Ayu

Putri cening ayu,

[pu-tri tʃε-nɪŋ a-ju] (Goodbye, beautiful girl,)

ngijeng cening jumah

[ni-dʒon tse-nin dʒu-ma] (please stay here at home.)

Meme luas malu

me-me lu-as ma-lu (I am going now)

ke peken mablanja

[kə pə-kun mə-blaŋ-dʒə] (to shop at the market)

apang ada daarang nasi.

[a-paŋ ə-də dar-aŋ na-si] (to get something with rice.)

Apa kaki kemulan keto?

[a-pa ka-ki kə-mu-lan kə-to] (Have you always had this white hair?)

Mabulu uling di mara lekade?

[ma-bu-lu u-liŋ di ma-ra lə-ka-de] (Were you born this way?)

Tusing cening, kaki ma jenggot reko.

[tu-sin tse-nin ka-ki ma dzen-got ra-ko] (No child, I was not born this way,)

Suba tua mara ya mentik

[su-ba tu-a ma-ra ja mon-tik]
(When I got older, the beard started to grow.)

Meme tiang ngiring.

[me-me ti-an ni-rɪŋ]
(I will do what you ask.)

Ngijeng tiang jumah

[ni-dʒəŋ ti-aŋ dʒu-ma] (I will stay here at home)

sambilang mapunpun

[sam-bi-lan ma-pon-pon] (and prepare a fire)

ajak tiang dadua.

[a-dʒak ti-aŋ da-du-ə] (to cook for the two of us.)

Di mulih ne dong gapgapin.

[di mu-le ne don gap-ga-pin] (Be sure to bring something good.)

THREE BALINESE FOLK SONGS

for 2-part voices and piano

1. Juru Pencar

Balinese Folk Song Arranged by MATT CARLSON



The bubbling, rhythmic piano part of "Juru Pencar" creates a loop of positive energy between the melody and the accompaniment, allowing singers and listeners alike to reap the rewards of this synergy. The invitation to catch the "big fish at the mouth of the river" is a metaphor for receiving the bounties of the goodness one puts into the world, a concept known as *kharma*. In Bali, fishermen wait patiently until they see a cluster of fish, then scatter their cone-shaped nets over the surface of the water so that they expand and trap the fish. The nets are then pulled to shore, and the fish are brought to the village market *(peken)* to be sold.











2. Jenggot Uban

Balinese Folk Song Arranged by MATT CARLSON



"Jenggot Uban" reflects child-like curiosity and playfulness through the use of space and staccato articulation. This beloved song describes the relationship between a grandfather and his grandchild. In the lyrics, the child asks about the white hair on the grandfather's face, which is a symbol of one of the transition cycles of life (*Catur Asrama*). An important part of the final cycle is the philosophical concept of *reincarnation*: the belief that the soul, upon being released from the biological body through death, is returned to begin the cycle of life again in a new body. From the child's questions, we begin to appreciate that the search for knowledge is not part of just one stage of life but something we pursue for eternity.











"Putri Cening Ayu" reflects the journey to and from home by using inner voices in the piano part to wander away from and return to the tonic. The text describes a conversation between a mother who leaves early in the morning to go to the market (*peken*) and her daughter who she asks to stay and tend to the home (*jumah*). In Bali, there is a deep cultural understanding that families must always care for and fulfill their obligations to one another, a concept known as *dharma*. This code of conduct governs daily life and aims to create joy and happiness by upholding one's own responsibilities and duties.











