

EUROSEAS 2022 Paris - Proposal

Option 4 - Screenings with academic discussion

Title: ‘TINIG-TUNOG-AN: The Life and Work of Ramón Pagayon Santos’.

A full feature documentary film - 120mins

Convener/ Filmmaker:

Dr Jean-David Caillouët
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Topic:

Ramón Pagayon Santos is a Filipino composer, ethnomusicologist, and educator who is widely regarded as the main living exponent of contemporary Philippine classical music. His work expounds on "the aesthetic frameworks of Philippine and Southeast Asian artistic traditions" and also explores new uses of indigenous Philippine instruments. With a career spanning over 60 years and a portfolio comprising hundreds of pieces in many different styles, Ramón Santos is easily one of the most prolific composers of his generation.

The feature film documentary presented here is an exploration of the multifaceted oeuvre of the composer, focusing primarily on aspects of his work that combine Western and non-Western sounds. Santos shapes the fabric of a unique modern musical language by taking inspiration from local ethnic musical systems and modes of thinking. Also a prolific ethnomusicologist who has written extensively about the Philippines as well as the cultures of Southeast Asia, his research process has greatly informed the evolution of his rich compositional output. This film-portrait illustrates not only the broad scope of the composer's vast musical output but also offers in-depth insights into his philosophies about culture, art and history. Combining exclusive interviews with a wealth of archival materials, the documentary investigates the exceptional vision of an artist driven by a vision of unity, connecting people and expressive traditions through an eclectic and yet incredibly coherent oeuvre. The film is part of a series portraying significant Southeast Asian artists that have marked the cultural evolution of the region during the transitional post colonial era.

A trailer for the film can be accessed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKT9ZZ8vb7s&t=56s>

A video of the actual documentary can be previewed here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gB6Qdh2xcbNTGtoYd0-n2mlCdquvAJvz/view?usp=sharing>

Discussion format:

The format proposed for the presentation is as follows:

A short introduction to the film, highlighting the main themes and issues covered through its narrative, a showing of the film (2 possible versions are available: 120 mins or 90 mins; a shorter edit may also be provided if necessary) followed by a discussion with the filmmaker Jean-David Caillouët, the ethnomusicologists Dr. Verne dela Peña and Anant Narkkong. It is desirable to also involve Dr. Ramon Santos himself, who would be available to join the event via Zoom or any online communication platform, if the given time is suitable. (Philippines GMT +8)

The funds for the filmmaker Jean-David Caillouët have already been made available, but confirmation is still needed for Verne dela Peña and Anant Narkkong depending on the acceptance of this proposal. If those two participants are unable to be there in person, it is possible to imagine a session where the filmmaker would act as a convener from Paris, establishing a discussion between the two ethnomusicologists and Ramon P. Santos via the internet, with a live audience onsite.



