



## MTO 6.2 Examples: Tenzer, Theory and Analysis of Melody in Balinese Gamelan

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<http://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.00.6.2/mto.00.6.2.tenzer.php>

**Figure 1.** Descriptive term-pairs

Post-16th century music

Pre-16th century Music

- |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Cyclic                | 1. Linear                        |
| 2. Quadripartite         | 2. Additive (or free)            |
| 3. Instrumental          | 3. Vocal                         |
| 4. Court tradition       | 4. Village tradition             |
| 5. Bronze technology     | 5. (earlier) Local<br>technology |
| 6. Symmetrical structure | 6. Asymmetrical<br>structure     |

**Figure 2.** Summary of *gamelan* terminology and analytical concepts

1. *kotekan*: interlocking parts; composite moves at 4 or (sometimes) 8 tones/beat
2. *neliti*: skeletal reduction of leading melody; 1 tone per beat
3. *pokok*: trunk tones; ordinarily 1 tone every 2 beats
4. *jegogan*: sparsest melodic layer; one tone every 4, 8, 16 or 32 beats, depending on the length of the melody
5. *ngubeng*: static; low rate of scale-tone change
6. *majalan*: kinetic; high rate of scale-tone change
7. axis: distance in scale tones between the midpoint and final tones of a melody
8. contour class (CC): ordered, 4-member set of integers showing contour and interval relationships among four consecutive tones in a given stratum; the last of the four must be in a metrically stressed position, and is set to 0 to provide a point of orientation
9. *kotekan* contour class (kCC): like CC, but restricted to a series of 8 consecutive tones (lasting a total of two beats) in the *kotekan* stratum



Example 2. Pengecet Lasem (Melody and Kotekan)

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The image displays a musical score for 'Pengecet Lasem (Melody and Kotekan)'. It consists of four systems of two staves each, all in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The notation is as follows:

- System 1:** The upper staff features a complex, rhythmic melody with many sixteenth notes. The lower staff provides a simpler accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes. Both staves have the annotation "(see Example 4)" written below them.
- System 2:** The upper staff continues the intricate melodic line. The lower staff continues the accompaniment.
- System 3:** The upper staff continues the melodic line. The lower staff continues the accompaniment.
- System 4:** The upper staff concludes with a melodic phrase that includes a fermata over a note, followed by a final flourish. The lower staff continues the accompaniment. The word "Gong" is written at the end of the lower staff, indicating the end of the piece.

