

**GAMELAN SEMAR PEGULINGAN SAIH PITU:**

**THE HEAVENLY ORCHESTRA OF BALI**

**(Record Review)**

**I Wayan Rai S.**

Gamelan semar pegulingan saih pitu : the heavenly orchestra of bali. Produced by Kurt renker & Wlter Quintus, 1992. One compact disc (duration 63'32"), with notes by I Nyoman Wenten. Digital recording stereo, CD 3008 CMP records.

This CD was recorded by walter Quintus at pura bale batur, kamasan, klungkung, bali, Indonesia, in September 1991. It contains four gending (pieces) in three different saih (modes): gending lasem, saih selisir (23'28"); gending tembung, saih tembung (19'04) ; gending tabuh gari, saih selisir (10'42') ; gending unduk, saih baro (10'18"). The performing group is sekaa semar pegulingan saih pitu from kamasan village, directed by I Wayan Sumendra .

The term semar pegulingan consists of two words: semar, the god of love, often called samara; and pegulingan , which means " bad chamber" in Balinese. Semar pegulingan, thus, means " love music for the bedroom." Another understanding of the name is " music for ecstasy." Saih pitu means that this gamelan uses the seven-tone pelog scale, one of the tuning systems in traditional Balinese music.