# **RE-IMAGINING THE INAIT OF THE MAGAVAU IN THE MUSIC COMPOSITIONAL PROCESS**



# FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND HERITAGE UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA SABAH 2019

# **RE-IMAGINING THE** *INAIT* OF THE *MAGAVAU* IN THE MUSIC COMPOSITIONAL PROCESS

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# THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

# FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND HERITAGE UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA SABAH 2019

### UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the material in this thesis is my own except for quotations, excerpts, equations, summaries and references, which have been duly acknowledged.

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Elvin Dainal August 23, 2018

## ABSTRACT

This study is conducted to explore the possibilities of producing a musical composition using the musical characteristics found in *inait* from the *Magavau* ritual of the Kadazan from Penampang incorporate with western tonal music. The research findings showed that the musical characteristics found in the *inait* includes musical form, tonality, melodic range, rhythmic pattern, texture, tempo and antiphony. Five (5) musical works have been composed and presented at the final stage of the research. Each analysis and commentary in the musical creation discusses inspiration, technical aspects of the piece, and provides musical examples.

Keywords

: Music composition, Magavau inait, Western Tonal Music



UIVIL

## ABSTRAK

## BAYANGAN SEMULA INAIT DARIPADA MAGAVAU DI DALAM PROSES KOMPOSISI MUZIK

Kajian ini dijalankan untuk melihat sejauh mana kemungkinan komposisi muzik yang menggunakan karakter – karakter muzik yang terdapat dalam inait oleh Magavau ritual Kadazan dari Penampang boleh disatukan dengan tonal muzik barat. Kajian mendapati bahawa terdapat beberapa karakter muzik telah dikenalpasti dalam inait Magavau termasuk bentuk muzik, tonaliti, jarak melodi, corak ritma, tekstur, tempo dan antiponi. Lima (5) karya muzik telah dicipta dan dibentangkan di akhir kajian ini. Setiap analisis dan komentari dalam penciptaaan seni tersebut membincangkan inspirasi, teknikal aspek dalam karya, dan contoh – contoh muzik disertakan.

Kata Kunci

: Muzik komposisi, Magavau inait, Tonal muzik barat

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

KDCA	-	Kadazandusun Cultural Association
NBC	-	North Borneo Company
PBS	-	Parti Bersatu Sabah
CA	-	Culture A – Refer to Kadazandusun art music
СВ	-	Culture B – Refer to Western tonal music
IA	-	Information A (Refer to musical characteristics in Magavu inait)
IB	-	Information B (refer to compositional techniques and western
		music instrument)
PM	-	Primary Melody
SM	-	Secondary Melody
СМ	- 6	Countermelody
IC	-	Imperfect Cadence
PAC	- 6	Perfect Authentic Cadence

## GLOSSARY

Anhemitonic Scal	es do r	not contain	semitones
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Arpeggiated chord A group of notes (broken chord) which are played one after the other, added either going up or going down.

Augmentation Compositional device where a melody, theme or motif is presented in longer note-values than were previously used.

Beat

Regular, recurrent pulsation that divides music into equal units of time.

Batik

Bobohizan

A method of producing coloured designs on textiles by dyeing them; having first applied wax to the parts to be left undyed.

A Kadazandusun mediator to communicate between the natural world (seen) and the supernatural world (unseen). She (or they) is a priestess who offers blood sacrifices to cool the spiritual heat of human sins, and also memories and recites the long sacred ritual poetry *inait* or *rinait*.

Bridge A contrasting musical and lyrical statement in which material different from either the verse or the chorus.

Cadence

Resting place at the end of a phrase; A melodic and/or harmonic configuration at the end of a phrase, section, or piece of music.

Counterpoint

One or more independent melodies added above or below a given melody.

Diminution

Form

Harmony

the repetition or imitation of a subject or theme in notes of shorter duration than those first used.

Dominant The fifth scale degree of the diatonic scale.

In music, it is the organization of musical elements in time.

Refers to the way chords are constructed and how they follow each other.

Inait Inait or rinait are long ritual poems memorised by the priestess that may take hours to recite. Some are chanted, and some are recited in a normal speaking voice. They are formed from biambic lines, in which the first line in each pair is in the common language, and the second (of the same meaning) is in the ritual language.

Interlude

Interlude is a short instrumental passage, gap, or break. Melodically and harmonically similar to the introduction, which serves as a contrasting section to the main song form.

Melody A series of single tones that add up to a recognizable whole.

MagavauA coastal Kadazan ritual to honour the paddy spirits for the<br/>bountiful rice harvest earned after the harvesting season in<br/>Penampang.

MogunatipAlso known as 'Bamboo Dance', considered one of the most<br/>popular traditional dances in Sabah from the Murut ethnic<br/>groups and Dusunic groups.

Modulation Shifting from one key to another key within the same piece.

Monophonic Single melodic line without accompaniment.

Musical texture	Refers to how many different layers of sound are heard at once, to what kind of layers they are (melody of harmony), and to how they are related to each other.
Notation	System of writing music so that specific pitches and rhythms can be communicated.
Note	Referring to the pitch in music.
Phrase	Shorter part that made up melody.
Ostinato	A continually repeated musical phrase or rhythm.
Rhythm	The flow of music through time.
Tempo	Speed of the beat, basic pace of music.
Tetratonic	Musical scale or mode with four notes per octave.
Tutti	An Italian word literally meaning <i>all</i> or <i>together</i> and is used as a musical term, for the whole orchestra as opposed to the soloist.

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for Flute and Piano (2017)

### **CHAPTER 1**

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Overview

What is your music identity in this world?" Ross James Carey (2011)

The names such as Bela Bartok (1881-1945), Lou Harrison (1917-2003), Chinary Ung (b.1942) and Tazul Izan Tajuddin (b.1969) are among the composers who did fusion music composition. Bartok is known as an ethnomusicologist and as a composer. Panyaniti (1998) in his research found that Bartok often borrowed melodies from the Hungarian folk art and used different timbre as sound effects. His ethnomusicological research not only involves the indigenous music of Hungary, but also the music of the land of the Middle East and Africa. Another researcher Ung, a Cambodian nationality involves Western and Asian musical art in his music. Meanwhile, Tajuddin's signature musical language incorporates cultural elements such as Islamic arabesque (an ornamental design consisting of intertwined flowing lines, originally found in Arabic or Moorish decoration) and gamelan music found in Malaysian and Indonesian culture (Gan, 2013).

As a music composer, it is natural to compose new music to create an identity for oneself. Those three composers had their own established identity involving two combinations of cultural elements into their musical language. To study more about the fusion music, I explored the Western tonal music and the musical elements from the Kadazandusun in Sabah.

#### 1.2 Kadazan Bobohizan From Penampang

#### 1.2.1 The Introduction of Bobohizan

Kadazan people believe that the powers in the real world and the unseen world must strike a balance life. If the imbalance between human lives with supernatural powers is ignored, then disaster will happen to them. Before religion was introduced, the Kadazan community used a *bobohizan* (also known as *bobolian / bobohian* among *Dusunic* group) as a medium to communicate with the supernatural. A *Bobohizan* is someone who is proficient in Kadazandusun's customs and is usually a well-known practitioner in traditional medicine or a traditional doctor (Hussin & Sintang, 2003; Lokin, 2007; Sansalu, 2002).

According to Rev. Fr. Ned (personal communication, 2016), a bobohizan acts as a mediator for the living and the spirit world. In Kadazan belief, the visible world of the living runs parallel with the invisible world of the spirits. To venture into the world of the spirits, the *bobohizan* will employ a *divato*<sup>1</sup> to guide them in the spirit world. A *bobohizan* will act as an intermediary between the living and the Creator called *Kinoingan*. The spirit world is a dangerous place and the *bobohizan* needs the guidance to keep them off from danger. The bobohizan goes into the spirit world to rescue the spirits of the living body who has become detached from the body caused by serious accident or to neutralise a bad dream by going to the world of dreams called kohosidan. The bobohizan takes the role of a medicine person when he/she prescribes traditional medicines to those suffering from illness caused by cancer and other serious sickness. The bobohizan also performs a thanksgiving ceremony for good harvest during the Magavau and monogit rituals. The Kadazan people believe that spirits take their dwellings in physical objects especially big trees like the banyan tree or nunuk and big stones or menhir. The people cannot see them, as they are invisible. To their eyes, they are just trees but in the spiritual world, there are seen as houses.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Spirit that acts as assistant to the *Bobohizan* in the parallel invisible world.