

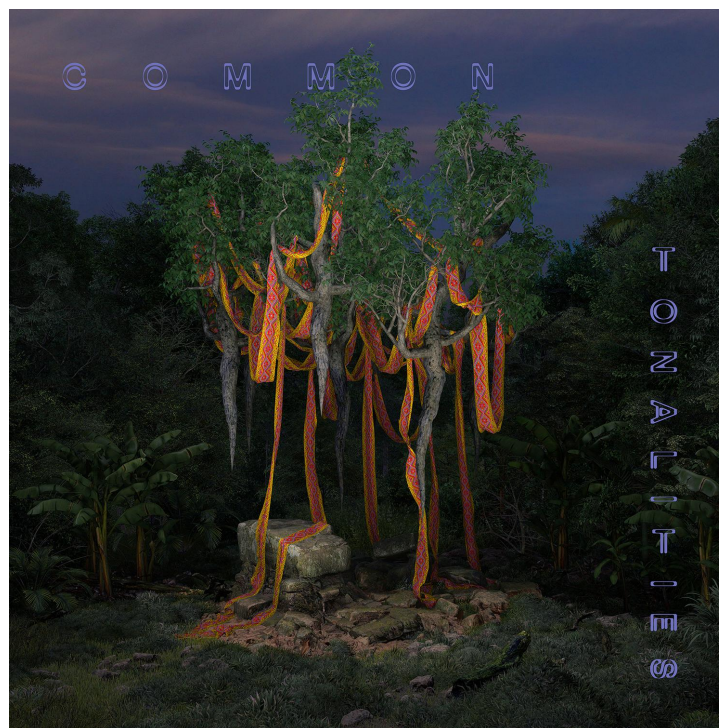
nusa sonic

Press Release

29 April 2022

New Release: Common Tonalities Compilation

Common Tonalities is a project that explores Southeast Asian tuning systems and scales through modern music technologies for the creation of new music. From Nov 2021 to Feb 2022, twenty artists selected by open call joined artist and researcher Khyam Allami in a series of workshops focused on the subject of tuning and how it relates to modern-day sonic technologies and music-making. After the workshops, each artist was commissioned to create a new work, all of which are presented in this compilation.



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In the Philippines, Maranao and Magindanao musicians tuned their gongs based on the first gong they had created and based the succeeding gongs and notes accordingly; thus, no two sets of gongs are exactly the same. This is also true with Indonesian Gamelan instruments, and traditional musical forms. This shows that music from Southeast Asia does not conform to Western tuning concepts or standards.

Widely available music production tools are largely based on the Western system of twelve tone Equal Temperament and the tuning reference of A = 440 Hz. Recent software development by collaborations of artists such as Khyam Allami with software developers like Counterpoint (Leimma, Apotome) and Aphex Twin and Oddsound (MTS-ESP) have been pushing to allow creative access to systems outside twelve-tone equal temperament. With Common Tonalities, Nusasonic supports the expansion of sonic palettes with a focus on music from Southeast Asia.

Listen to the compilation via the Nusasonic Soundcloud page.

Tracklist

- 1 - rEmPiT g0dDe\$\$ – Alam Impian
- 2 - Yaboi Hanoi - ชิงชัย "Ching Chai" (Spirit of Combat)
- 3 - Safuan Johari - Alunan Ayunan
- 4 - Ayankoko - Sarune Calling
- 5 - Pinky Htut Aung - Prayers
- 6 - Tam Thi Pham – The Chant
- 7 - Lynn Nandar Htoo – Abandoned Spirits
- 8 - Kasimyn – Wisisi dari Cirebon
- 9 - wanhanzan - Lewat Malam Awal Pagi
- 10 - Ha Thuy Hang – Going Astray
- 11 - Septian Dwi Cahyo – Enggung
- 12 - Elisha Tiga – Bayutara
- 13 - Rani Jambak – Fosarune
- 14 - Corin Ilete – Utom Summoning
- 15 - CJ Camelia Jonathan – Nyeneng-in Bali
- 16 - Kengchakaj – Uneven Geographies of Sound
- 17 - Liew Niyomkarn – I think of another time when you heard it
- 18 - Alicia de Silva – Transformation
- 19 - Zach Sch (Rắn Cạp Đuôi) – Thợ hàn điếm
- 20 - Drago Katzov – MIGRATORY



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Download album artwork and full album liner notes including an introduction by Khyam Allami and reflections by each artist on their creative process. More information including artist profiles can be found on the **Common Tonalities project page**.

As part of the initiative, a panel discussion with music scholars **Joe Peters**, **Khyam Allami**, **Ros Phoasavadi**, and **Shzr Ee Tan** was also held to discuss issues and nuances of tuning standardisation with respect to Southeast Asian musical systems, and implications of global access to these musical systems in the era of open source culture versus cultural appropriation. **Watch the panel** via the Nusasonic YouTube channel.

Credits

Common Tonalities was led by: Khyam Allami

With tracks by: Alicia de Silva, Ayankoko, CJ Camelia Jonathan, Corin lleto, Drago Katzov, Elisha Tiga, Ha Thuy Hang, Kasimyn, Liew Niyomkarn, Lynn Nandar Htoo, Pinky Htut Aung, Rani Jambak, rEmPiT g0dDe\$\$, Safuan Johari, Septian Dwi Cahyo, Tam Thi Pham, wanhanzan, Yaboi Hanoi, Zach Sch (Rắn Cạp Đuôi)

Mastered by: Agensi 56

Album artwork: Rimbawan Gerilya

Album design: Each Other Company

Special thanks to Peter Neubäcker and Panos Koliass from Celemony for supporting the project.

Common Tonalities is an initiative by Nusasonic, a multi-year project that plunges into a broad spectrum of experimental sound and music cultures in Southeast Asia, enabling dialogue within the region, with Europe, and beyond. Adopting a multi-perspective approach, the project is collaboratively created by Yes No Klub (Yogyakarta), WSK Festival of the Recently Possible (Manila), Playfreely/BlackKaji (Singapore), and CTM Festival for Adventurous Music & Art (Berlin). Nusasonic is an initiative of the Goethe-Institut in Southeast Asia.

www.nusasonic.com

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