

FACULTY OF MUSIC

MUF655

RESEARCH PROJECT

PROPOSAL

INSTRUMENTATION AND USE OF RHYTHM IN CINDAI BY PAK NGAH

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the instrumentation and use of rhythm in the Malay traditional song "Cindai" by Pak Ngah. The analysis is conducted by examining the song's structure and various sections, including the intro, verse, chorus, and instrumental breaks. The study focuses on Pak Ngah's use of traditional Malay instruments and the ways he blends these with contemporary instruments to create a unique sound. Additionally, the study examines how Pak Ngah employs different rhythms and their effects on the song's overall feel and impact. The results of the analysis reveal how Pak Ngah's creative instrumentation and skillful use of rhythm create a compelling and memorable musical experience. This study highlights the importance of creativity, innovation, and the conservation of traditional musical elements in creating music that resonates with audiences while still maintaining a strong cultural identity.

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CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND STUDY

Datuk Suhaimi Mohd Zain or better known as Pak Ngah is a Malaysian songwriter and record producer. He is well known for championing the music of Malaysian rhythms, and his work has been widely performed by famous singers including Dato 'Sri Siti Nurhaliza and Noraniza Idris. He was born on September 26, 1958. He is from Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur. He is married to a woman named Sharifah Mahani Syed Kassim. The couple was blessed with two children, Siti Syafrina and Mohd Syahrani.

Pak Ngah began his career in music since he was young and trying to create songs on the distribution of Malay as a great artistic talent. As a result of his persistence, around 1997, Malaysian pop singer Noraniza Idris was interested in singing her own song. The song titled *'Mahligai Asli'* was created in Noraniza Idris's first album *'Ala Dongdang'*.

The legendary *Cindai* song sung by famous singer Siti Nurhaliza makes Pak Ngah's name soar. This song is the climax of Pak Ngah's career as a songwriter. The collaboration between Pak Ngah and Siti Nurhaliza continued until Pak Ngah produced Siti Nurhaliza's '*Sanggar Mustika*' album which came out in 2007. In this album Pak Ngah also created songs entitled *Nirmala* and *Sulam Sembilan*.

Successfully as a songwriter, Pak Ngah made the bold decision to set up a recording company called Pak Ngah Production Sdn. Bhd. That accommodates his need for furthering his music career.

However, he breathed his last on September 25, 2018 in Batam