

A band performing on stage. The central figure is a man in traditional Sundanese attire, including a large feathered headdress and a dark, fringed garment. He is playing a stringed instrument, possibly a Suling or a similar traditional instrument. Other band members are visible in the background, including a bassist, a guitarist, and a drummer. The stage is lit with blue and white spotlights. A large white logo with the word 'Tuni' is overlaid on the image.

Tuni

Sundatang revival



TUNI SUNDATANG

Traditional-contemporary six-piece band from Ranau, Sabah, playing indigenous instruments infused with contemporary rock edge.

Inspired by the local culture of the indigenous people of Sabah and Borneo, we breathe new life into traditional music, in order to attract the interest of the younger generations and revive our cultural heritage from the verge of extinction.

Genre: Traditional Instrumental / Folk Rock

Year Formed: 2021

Members:

Gindung Mc Feddy Simon (Sundatang)

Adrian Johnny (Drum, Canang, Sompoton, Flute)

Dexter Titok (Kulintangan, Djembe)

Azizi Razlie (Guitar)

Maxelvin (Bass and Midi Keyboard)

Dean Oat (Drums)



Hailing from the foothills of Mount Kinabalu, Ranau, *Tuni Sundatang's* members joined together to raise awareness on the importance of preserving the endangered traditions and cultures of Sabah's rural communities through music.

Founder Gindung Mc Feddy Simon began researching and recreating the sundatang, an almost extinct traditional stringed instrument in 2018, travelling to various districts, states and countries in the Borneo archipelago to learn from elders, masters and musicians.

In 2020 he combined forces with Adrian Johnny (drums, sompoton, flute) and Dexter Titok (kulintangan), before they embarked on the journey of Tuni Sundatang as a traditional-contemporary six piece band in 2022 with Dean Oat, Azizi Razlie and Maxelvin.

Through their music Tuni Sundatang highlight various traditional instruments of Sabah including the sundatang, sompoton, kulintangan, bungkau, toburik, turali, suling, tongkungon and birula, to ensure they are saved from extinction and introduced to younger generations. Every musical aspect brought by Tuni Sundatang is through storytelling without vocals, but through song titles named after local customs, traditions and culture.



LIVE PERFORMANCES & FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 2024

Konsert Estranged (*Apa Khabar Teman?*), Persada Johor

JANUARY 2024

Peace & Partnership (YouthJoy), SICC, Kota Kinabalu

DECEMBER 2023

North Borneo Rainforest Festival, Kompleks Likas, Sabah

Appreciation Evening (*Sticky Rice Travel*), Shangri-la, Tanjung Aru

NOVEMBER 2023

National Geographic Private Jet, Sabah Hotel, Sandakan

The Crocker Range Festival, Keningau

Seni Kita (*Sunset Serenade*), Haus KCH, Sarawak



LIVE PERFORMANCES & FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 2023

Festival Kebudayaan dan Pelancongan, Sandakan

Rhythms of Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu

Spirit of Sabah, KDCA, Penampang

Borneo Matsuri Music Festival, SICCC, Kota Kinabalu

Festival Seni dan Budaya Antarabangsa Borneo, Penampang

SEPTEMBER 2023

Lost & Found, Ruang Tamu, Kota Kinabalu

Karnival Gegar Keningau, Keningau, Sabah

AUGUST 2023

National Geographic Private Jet, Sandakan, Sabah

Tentang Langit Tour, Live House, Kota Kinabalu

JULY 2023

Bayu Music Camp, Inanam, Sabah

APRIL 2023

National Geographic Private Jet, Sandakan, Sabah

FEBRUARY 2023

Borneo Bengkel: Making Noise, The Godown, Kuala Lumpur

The Lost Sound of Rainforest, Papan Haus, Petaling Jaya, Selangor



LIVE PERFORMANCES & FESTIVAL

JANUARY 2023

One With Nature Music Festival, KDCA Penampang, Sabah

DECEMBER 2022

National Geographic Private Jet, Sandakan, Sabah

NOVEMBER 2022

Sabah Traditional Tattoo Convention, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Pangrok Sulap EP Launch, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

North Borneo Rainforest Festival, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Rimba Music Festival, Penampang, Sabah

OCTOBER 2022

Kupi-Kupi FM 96.3 live, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

National Gallery Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

JULY 2022

Borneo Jazz Festival, Miri, Sarawak

JULY 2022

Rainforest World Music Festival, Kuching Sarawak

2021

Living Arts Cultural Festival, JKKK Kuala Lumpur

Panggung Rakyat, CENDANA, PRISMA & DBKL



WORKSHOPS, TALKS & EXHIBITIONS

JANUARY 2024

Jom Teman: Bengkel Sape' & Sundatang (*Hosted by Estranged*)

Embrace Hall, Johor Bahru

SEPTEMBER 2023

Boat Lute Exhibition Closing with Roger Wang, Kota Kinabalu

Lost & Found: Boat Lute Exhibition

Ruang Tamu Ekosistem, Kota Kinabalu

AUGUST 2023

The Lost Instruments: Reviving Borneo's Indigenous Boat Lutes

Borneo Cultures Museum, Kuching, Sarawak

JUNE 2023

Sundatang : The Lost Sound of Rainforest, Universiti Malaysia Sabah

MAY 2023

The Archived is Alive, Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford University and British Museum,

London, United Kingdom

DECEMBER 2020

Workshop & Talk with Cheng Ying Chuang & Hsiao Feng Lin (Musitonik Ensemble) from Taiwan, Ranau

NOVEMBER 2019

Inaugural North Borneo Rainforest Festival Launched, Kota Kinabalu

North Borneo Rainforest Festival : Workshop & Exhibition, Kota Kinabalu

INTERVIEW WITH RTM (Rancangan TV Malaysia)

SEPTEMBER 2023

The Lost Music : Sundatang (*Finas, Skyline*), Kota Kinabalu

DECEMBER 2022

Arkib Sabah : Persatuan Dusun Liwan, Ranau

SEPTEMBER 2022

RTM Travel Log, Ranau

AUGUST 2022

Rona Sabah, Kota Kinabalu

2020

Siung Production : Episod Sundatang, Ranau

Temu Minda, Kota Kinabalu

2019

RTM Sabah, Kota Kinabalu





MEDIA INTERVIEWS & PERFORMANCES

NOVEMBER 2023

Sip-sip Show with Egen, Ranau

OCTOBER 2023

Daily Express,

JUNE 2023

Kupi Kupu Fm 96.3, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

MARCH 2023

Ten Journeys, One Aspiration : KITA (Documentary/Cinema)

Feature: *Bringing Borneo's unique 'boat lutes' in tune with 21st century* Nikkai Asia

DECEMBER 2022

Al Fateh Production AirAsia, Kuala Lumpur

OCTOBER 2022

Kupi-Kupi FM 96.3 live, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

NOVEMBER 2021

Sound of Borneo : Tuyang, Kota Kinabalu

MAY 2020

Borneo Daily Bulletin



DABRA SIA . TUNI SUNDATANG

TANGON

Collaboration between Dabra Sia & Tuni Sundatang
TANGON (Official Music Video) 118,000 views

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRKguyqvDMA



SONG LIST - Original compositions

1. *TANGON*
2. *HIGHLANDER*
3. *WAR CRY*
4. *NATALUP*
5. *SAYAU RONDON*
6. *MAMARAIT RAHAT*
7. *SUANG RUSOD*



LIVE PERFORMANCE

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYPmwf99918&ab_channel=ANSAMUNG_OFFICIAL



MUSIC VIDEO: Youtube: Tuni Sundatang
[youtube.com/watch?v=ftMv79S0tH0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftMv79S0tH0)



SHARING & PERFORM BY

TUNI SUNDATANG



24 FEB
PAPAN HAUS



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

Private Jet

EXPEDITIONS



PERFORMER

TUNI SUNDATANG

10 Sept 2023

Sabah Hotel

ARTS

Bringing Borneo's unique 'boat lutes' in tune with 21st century

Artists and researchers team up to save endangered musical tradition



Carved from a single piece of wood, "boat lutes" are plucked string instruments with hollowed bodies that look something like dugout canoes used on Borneo's waterways by indigenous inhabitants. (Courtesy of Gindung Mc Feddy Simon)

MARCO FERRARESE, Contributing writer
March 17, 2023 08:00 JST

One of the musicians taking part in both projects is Gindung Mc Feddy Simon from Ranau, Sabah, who has studied, researched, taught and even built the sundatang of the Dusun since 2018.



Musician Gindung Mc Feddy Simon, seated center, is pictured here with *sundatang* master Yutam Miki, second from right, and other musicians. Gindung works with elders to record and document the use of the traditional instrument. (Courtesy of Gindung Mc Feddy Simon)

"Seeing how the traditional boat lute of Sarawak, the sape', became an international symbol I felt we needed our own in Sabah," Gindung said. "There are about 10 people playing the sundatang left in the state, and because I am still young, I thought to help [by] mixing our heritage with contemporary music, to make it more interesting to younger generations."

Gindung introduced radical changes to the body of the sundatang, such as adding

6

Home

THE BORNEO POST

Sabahan band wows crowd at festival

KOTA KINABALU: Music and culture fans were treated to an epic performance by local rock band Tunj Sundatang, a newly formed group of musicians from Ranau, who bring a contemporary twist to traditional indigenous musical instruments such as the sundatang, sompoton and kulintang.

Performing on the last night of the recently revived North Borneo Rainforest Festival (NBRF) at the cultural village of Sabah State Museum, Kota Kinabalu, on November 6, the band of six musicians presented a unique sound to a delighted audience, playing four rousing songs.

The large crowd were delivered further entertainment as the band opened with a spectacle of fire-breathing by Sabah Creative Dance group, and two 20-foot tall puppets in traditional attire produced by renowned art collective Pangrok Sulap.

The rarely seen sundatang - a string instrument traditionally played by Rungus, Dusun and Kadazan ethnic groups, has experienced something of a revival in the last few years as musicians from Sabah aspire to replicate the international success seen by the Sape in Sarawak.

Front man of the band, and

sundatang maker Gindung Mc Feddy Simon explained: "Tunj means 'sound' in the Dusun language, and with our band we want to bring the sound of the sundatang and our other indigenous instruments to younger audiences. We want to show that Sabah has a deep and rich cultural heritage and that the knowledge of our ancestors can be reimagined onto a modern stage for international audiences."

Other members of the band include Adrian Johnny on the sompoton, flute and gong, Dexter Denis on kulintang gong, Dean Oat on drums, Jiji on guitar and Max on bass and midi keyboard.

Both Adrian and Dexter were previously members of cultural music troupes.

Adrian said: "During the pandemic I stopped performing, as there were no longer tourists, and I thought maybe I would need to change career."

"But after meeting in 2021 we realised that these instruments had a lot of potential for contemporary music and decided to form a band. We're all proud of our Dusun indigenous roots, and hopefully we can inspire other youths to also explore their cultural heritage."

As well as performing, the band



Tunj Sundatang performing during NBRF, led by Sundatang player Gindung Mc Feddy Simon.

also took part in two workshops as part of NBRF's programme, Adrian sharing about traditional wind instruments the sompoton and toburik alongside other musicians, whilst Gindung hosted a group of boat lute practitioners

to share about the sundatang as well as the tapi, belikan, sape Bali and gambus string instruments.

Gindung explained, "Since 2018 I've been carrying out research on the sundatang, visiting elders and rural communities to document

these instruments and learn traditional techniques. Earlier this year I hosted workshops at the Rainforest World Music Festival and Borneo Jazz festival in Sarawak. Last month we had our first performance at

the Rimba Music Festival in Penampang, and then this past weekend at NBRF. From the crowd's reaction I can definitely say Sabahans are excited by this cultural revival of indigenous music, and I'm very thankful to the elders who generously shared their knowledge with me, and my fellow revivalists!"

North Borneo Rainforest Festival is in its second year, after debuting in 2019. Supported by Sabah State Museums, its mission is to create a platform for creatives and NGOs who focus on cultural and environmental preservation.

Festival Director and President of the Sabah Art & Culture Collective Association, Juliana Aping, said: "We're delighted to bring back the festival, and see young and old Sabahans, and well as international visitors supporting our efforts. Tunj Sundatang's performance, alongside 10 other bands, was full of energy and we look forward to seeing the band and festival continue to grow."

For those eager to experience the band's live music for themselves Tunj Sundatang will be performing once again at the Sabah Traditional Tattoo Convention at SICC Kota Kinabalu from Nov 25-27.

Festival muzik etnik dekati peminat muda

Sundatang hampir pupus?

Published on: Friday, February 10, 2023

By: Jinni Juanis

Text Size: **+** **-** **Dark Mode**

MC FEDDY mengajar seorang kanak-kanak bermain Sundatang.

SUNDATANG adalah salah satu alat muzik tradisi kaum KDMR yang boleh dikategorikan herada di zon merah. In-

Jinni Juanis

GEMRI muzik etnik Borneo semakin mendapat sambutan dalam kalangan orang muda di negeri ini. Ia adalah simbol kepada kebudayaan dan cara hidup sukakam di Sabah yang disuarakan melalui melodi dan pengalunan peralatan muzik tradisional.

Muzik itu disulami dengan mantera 'inai', dengan persembahkan busana tradisi yang unik seperti yang dipakai kumpulan Rapot Sanggong dari Kudat.

Minggu lalu, di Dewan Hongkod Koisan KCA Penampang, hampir 1,000 hadirin kebanyakannya orang muda, datang menyaksikan One With Nature Music Festival (OWNMF) dan menikmati persembahan 12 kumpulan pemuzik etnik yang unik serta istimewa.

Ada yang pertama kali melihat persembahan muzik etnik ini dan mengakui berasa kagum dengan muzik yang mereka anggap sebagai berbeza dengan lagu yang biasa mereka dengar. Mereka berasa kagum betapa muzik etnik itu sebenarnya begitu dekat dengan mereka kerana ia menceritakan tentang diri mereka.

Kelly James, 18, berasa gembira menyaksikan persembahan pemuzik itu bersama kawan-kawannya. Ini adalah kali pertama dia menyaksikan festival ini dan teruja mengetahui kaum Kadazan seperti ada melodi dan alat muzik tersendiri.

"Saya tidak pernah melihat alat muzik Sundatang dan apabila mendengarnya, ia sangat mengasyikkan kerana berbeza dengan alat muzik yang lain. Bunyinya tidak sama dengan gitar walaupun mengguna tali," katanya, mengaiti lagu-lagu moden tidak setanding dengan apa yang didengarnya di festival itu.

Kawannya Sandra Mae, 19, bersejaja dan selepas mendengar alunan muzik etnik, kini timbul pula minatnya untuk mempelajari alat-alat muzik tradisional yang dilatihnya di atas pentas seperti 'kulitanangan' dan 'sompoton'.

"Muzik etnik sangat sesuai pula bergabung dengan muzik moden. Saya sukakan jazz. Hati ini saya dengar maju, mereka dalam muzik etnik diiringi beberapa alat muzik tradisional. Sedap betul alunan muzik ini dengan vokalis menyanyikan

lagu dengan melodi berbeza," katanya. Kelly dan Sandra teruja dan tidak sabar untuk menyaksikan persembahan yang sama jika festival yang sama diadakan pada masa depan nanti.

Festival muzik etnik ini adalah anjuran oleh Penggerak Kreatif dan Inovasi Sabah (SCREMI).

Sebanyak 12 kumpulan pemuzik muncul membuat persembahan termasuk Tani Sundatang, Rapot Sanggong, Razali Kulitangan, Bayu Project, Canang Borneo dan beberapa kumpulan lagi.

Pengerusi pengajuin Chester Sindol, ketika ditemui di majlis itu, menyatakan rasa gembira kerana matlamat untuk mempromosi muzik genre etnik dan kumpulan berkahat Sabah sedikit sebanyak dapat dicapai walaupun masih ada kelemahan dari segi teknikal.

"Kehadiran ratusan orang, terutama orang muda adalah bukti bahawa festival ini berada di jalan yang betul untuk dipromosikan. Ini memberi semangat kepada kami dalam industri muzik Sabah bahawa walaupun masih kecil, ia mempunyai potensi besar untuk maju."

"Sokongan pelbagai pihak terutama daripada kerajaan perlu untuk menggalakan seni budaya ini dikembangkan menjadi industri yang besar. Sokongan ini akan mendorong seniman seperti pemuzik dan penyanyi untuk bekerja lebih kuat," jelasnya, menambah seniman juga menyumbang pendapatan negara melalui muzik dalam industri kreatif negara.

Sebelum pandemik Covid-19, industri kreatif Malaysia menyumbang sebanyak 1.9 peratus atau RM29.4 bilion kepada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNG), berdasarkan laporan Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia pada 2019.

Kementerian Komunikasi dan Multimedia (KKMM) melalui agensinya membentangkan melalui alunan melodi adalah salah satu cabang muzik yang menceritakan kehidupan penduduk asal sesuatu kaum. Ia memaparkan identiti mereka. Ia juga boleh memuatkan masyarakat yang majmuk," tambahnya.

Menurut Chester, muzik ini perlu dipromosi dengan lebih gigih bukan sahaja oleh aktivis muzik tetapi juga mesti diberi perhatian khusus oleh kerajaan dengan menyediakan saluran atau dana untuk mereka bergiat.

Ini terbuka apabila banyak bakat

negeri ini berjaya memenangi pertandingan peringkat kebangsaan dan antaranya tetapi apabila di tempat sendiri, ramai 'underated' dan tidak mendapat peluang sewajarnya.

Katanya, pengajuin festival adalah suatu cara untuk mendekatkan bukat-bakat yang ada. Sabah mempunyai pelbagai kaum dan setiap mereka mempunyai kelainan dan keistimewaan yang patut dihargai.

Chester menambah, mereka mahu golongan belia di negeri ini yang berminat dalam bidang muzik untuk mengembangkan muzik etnik. Festival ini memberi peluang kepada mereka untuk mendekati diri dengan alat muzik tradisional seperti sundatang, bambu, kulitangan, sompoton dan gong serta gendang.

Satu lagi keunikan muzik etnik ini, katanya, ialah kesemua karya dicipta kumpulan pemuzik yang mengemukakan gubahan asal. Peratuannya menggalakkan kumpulan pemuzik etnik ini untuk mencipta karya asli.

Sepanjang dua hari festival, orang ramai turut dihiburkan oleh kumpulan Potato Squad, kumpulan tidak asing lagi yang selalu beraksi di kelab, yang memberi persembahan mantap dan berkualiti.

Sambil berhibur, beberapa acara juga diadakan iaitu pertandingan mewarna, pertandingan pakaian bergambar dan pertandingan menyanyi kanak-kanak. Tema pertandingan adalah etnik dan alam semula jadi.

"Penyertaan daripada kanak-kanak adalah menggalakkan. Saya harap proses pertandingan ini akan membantu peserta mengenali alam sekitar dan muzik etnik. Itu adalah syarat dan tema pertandingan," kata Chester.

"Muzik etnik dan tradisional yang disuarakan melalui alunan melodi adalah salah satu cabang muzik yang menceritakan kehidupan penduduk asal sesuatu kaum. Ia memaparkan identiti mereka. Ia juga boleh memuatkan masyarakat yang majmuk," tambahnya.

Menurut Chester, muzik ini perlu dipromosi dengan lebih gigih bukan sahaja oleh aktivis muzik tetapi juga mesti diberi perhatian khusus oleh kerajaan dengan menyediakan saluran atau dana untuk mereka bergiat.



TUNI SUNDATANG

Edisi Khas Sambutan Hari Malaysia

Negeri di Bawah Bayu:

Kita Kaya Budaya Bah!

Saksikan temu bual khas

Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah

Menteri Komunikasi dan Multimedia

bersama



Dr. Rose Patsy Tibok

Ahli Akademik dan Aktivistik Budaya Sabah



Iffah Hazirah

Artis Ilustrasi, Kaligrafi dan Mural

Jared Abdul Rahman

Pencerita Visual dan Pemudah Seni Komuniti

Persembahan Sundatang : **McFеды Simon**

Pembuat Sundatang Kontemporari



temu minda

kkmm



15 SEPTEMBER 2020

SELASA

9.00 MALAM

bersiaran di :

• LIVE KEMENTERIAN KOMUNIKASI DAN MULTIMEDIA

BERITA

Bernama TV

astro
AWANI

dengan kerjasama :



Tempatan

Minat mendalam, keyakinan diri terhadap bidang diceburi mampu jana pendapatan lumayan.

June 19, 2020

Oleh: Jainuddin Nasir

and a wise step in the long run to the preservation of cultural features.

“Such efforts should be pursued to ensure the sustainability of cultural features from disappearing due to modernization. In addition, such programs can promote and help attract tourists to the state,” he added.

Assafal also urged volunteers of the event to continue working with the government on similar efforts in the future.

“This is because the program is not only beneficial to the ministries and departments but also has a great impact on preserving the culture for overall knowledge of the community, not only for the people of Sabah but also for the public,” he said.

The assistant minister also took note of Sabah Museum Department's Night Safari and Balik Kampung program for NBRF 2019.



The Borneo Post (Sabah)

Inaugural North Borneo Rainforest Festival launched

4 Nov 2019

KOTA KINABALU: The inaugural North Borneo Rainforest Festival (NBRF) is a great platform for cultural preservation and exposure amongst the local and foreign folks, said assistant minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Assafal P Alian.

Assafal noted that the November 2-3 event, organized by the Sabah Museum Department with NGOs and activists, has strived to bring together all forms of culture that are important in the sustainable cultural preservation in the region.

“These goals and functions also directly shed light on the Sabah government's emphasis and attention on efforts to preserve the state's identity by preserving and highlighting the cultural features of the entire community,” said Assafal at the NBRF 2019 launch in Kampung

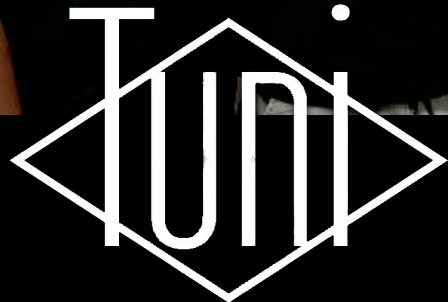


Assafal (right) playing the Sundatang (a musical instrument indigenous to Sabah) with a Borneo Bengkel member, who is playing the Sape (a musical instrument indigenous to Sarawak) at the two-day NBRF in Kampung Warisan at Sabah Museum on Saturday night.

Warisan at the Sabah Museum here Saturday night.

“For this reason, such programs should be a priority and should fo-

cus on the cooperation of the Sabah Museum Department with volunteers such as NGOs and activists in seeking to bring together all forms of culture in the state, an important



Sundatang revival

For more info please contact:

Gindung Mc Feddy Simon
+60 14-554 4200

www.instagram.com/tunisundatang

www.facebook.com/sundatangrevival

www.tiktok.com/@tunisundatang

www.youtube.com/@tunisundatang