

Work comments for:

Kjell Samkopf

Variations on Parang Chant

for Percussion Sextet

Kjell Samkopf: Variations on Parang Chant for Percussion sextet from 1981, was the first commission the Norwegian Percussion Society initiated. The piece was intended for young percussionists between 10 and 16 for use at seminars and by the percussionists in school brass-bands.

Kjell Samkopf says about his work: "Many years ago, I heard a record with the Swedish jazz pianist Jan Johansson. One of the tunes was called Parang Chant. It was a simple, yet touching melody, the theme being repeated over and over, each time with a variation in the accompaniment. The melody became embedded in my memory and I often thought I should use it sometime. The opportunity finally arrived with the commission from the Norwegian Percussion Society. All of the material in the piece springs from this little melody and its rhythmical pattern. The variations consist of gradually letting the drums and other percussion instruments take over the "melody part". This culminates in a short improvisation, which leads to a "stretto" section before the melody is once again established, winding up the piece. *Variations on Parang Chant* is an easy piece to play, as well as to listen to."

The work had its world premiere at Henie Onstad Art Centre, outside Oslo, on February 27, 1983. Eastern Norway Conservatory of Music Percussion Ensemble, conducted by Kjell Samkopf, performed it.

	Technical info
Title:	Variations on Parang Chant
Subtitle:	for Percussion Sextet
Year of composition:	1983
Duration:	12 min.
Instrumentation:	Percussion Sextet
Commissioned by:	Norwegian Percussion Society
World premiere:	Henie Onstad Art Centre, outside Oslo, February 27, 1983, by The Eastern Norway Conservatory of Music Percussion Ensemble, conducted by Kjell Samkopf
Music publisher:	Musikk-Huset Forlag
Recordings:	Simax - PSC 1065, Percussion Ensemble, conducted by Kjell Samkopf