MUSIC IN THE MONOGIT RITUALS OF THE KADAZAN OF PENAMPANG, SABAH, MALAYSIA

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Abstract
Sompogogungan gong ensemble music with sumazau dancing characterizes coastal Kadazan social celebrations at weddings, feasts, church festivals, and nowadays at concerts and tourism events. It also occurs in traditional ritual ceremonies. This paper investigates the role of sompogogungan and gandang drum music in monogit rituals of the Kadazan of Penampang. The monogit is organised by a household to promote the fertility of rice plants, to ensure the family’s health and fertility, to cleanse family members from bad dreams, to cleanse the house from evil spirits, and to “feed” the miontong or house guardian spirit. Priestesses or bobohizan preside over rituals and sacrifices according to prescriptions in the inait, long chanted ritual poetry. Drumming and sompogogungan performance outline the framework for ceremonies, provide a vehicle for the bobohizan to enter the spirit world through conscious trance, and support sumazau dancing, especially that of the bobohizan when possessed by the miontong.

Keywords: drumming, gong music, dance, rituals, Kadazan, Sabah, Malaysia