

**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