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Correspondence Address:

Thai Studies, Faculty of Arts,
Chulalongkorn University 254 Phaya
Thai Rd, Wang Mai, Pathum Wan,
Bangkok 10330. E-mail:
6688031022@student.chula.ac.th

THE FUNCTION OF MUSIC AS A MEDIA OF DAWAR IN GAMBUS MISRI PERFORMANCES

Rizki Firmansyah¹

¹State University of Surabaya, Surabaya, Indonesia

²Unesa University, Surabaya, Indonesia

Email: rizkifirmansyah.21028@mhs.unesa.ac.id

Dr. Arif Hidajad., S.Sn. M.Pd.

¹State University of Surabaya, Surabaya, Indonesia

Email : arifhidajad@unesa.ac.id

Abstract: Gambus Misri is an Islamic art form originating from the Jombang region. Gambus Misri originates from a genre of gambus music that historically originated in the Middle East. Over time, gambus music entered the Indonesian archipelago and became a distinctive form of Malay music, giving rise to classical Malay gambus music that became the forerunner of music in Gambus Misri performances. Gambus Misri music is not only an accompaniment to a performance, but also contains values. The values contained in Gambus Misri music convey a message about Islamic teachings that originated from an Islamic culture that developed in Islamic boarding schools in the Tebuireng area in the 1960s. The messages contained have deep meaning in Islamic teachings, which is a primary function of music, which aims to serve as a medium of da'wah in spreading Islam in society. Gambus Misri music has an important function in community culture. Music is not only a complement, but an inseparable part of the entire form of the performance. Through its integrated structure and function, Gambus Misri music asserts itself as a living, meaningful cultural heritage worthy of continued preservation.

Keywords: *Function, Music, Performance, Gambus Misri*

1. INTRODUCTION

The function of music in performances has several functions. The music in the performance is useful to "illustrate". Musical illustration aims to depict emotions, atmosphere and stories. Illustrations are often depicted with a drawing or real work. However, in a musical context, illustration is described by musical compositions as supporting elements of a performance. The function of music itself has an important role in a performance which aims to strengthen the story and clarify the chapters of each scene in the performance. The various depictions in the performance are supported and clarified by the music itself and clarify the atmosphere that exists in the performance. The Gambus Misri performance is characterized by music with a "gambus" theme. The main function of music in the Gambus Misri performance is as a medium for preaching Islamic teachings which teaches the virtues in it, strengthening the characteristics of the characters from the Gambus Misri story. The characteristic of Gambus Misri itself is the theme of "gambus" which comes from the Middle East so it has its own uniqueness.

Gambus Misri is an Islamic art form native to Jombang Regency, East Java. It has existed since the 1960s and is considered a folk performing art form. It emerged from advice from Mr. Asfandi while he was studying at an Islamic boarding school, prompting him to create



a work of art that incorporates elements of Islamic teachings. Gambus Misri combines several artistic disciplines, including music, dance, acting, comedy, and religious elements. Its religious purpose is to convey advice or preach to encourage the community to practice good deeds.

Gambus Misri is a folk performance, an art form that grew and developed among the Jombang community, specifically in Kendalsari Village, Sumobito District. It is a narrative that uses the language and cultural elements of that community. Folk performances themselves possess distinctive characteristics that reflect the ecology and humanities of a particular region. Folk performances developed through word of mouth. These oral stories serve as a form of preservation for the art form itself.

2. METHOD

The method used in writing this article is a qualitative descriptive research method, which is a research method that uses observation and interviews, as well as observation of an object that is described qualitatively in accordance with the research method used by the author.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Misri Gambus Performance

Gambus Misri Bintang Sembilan is a form of Islamic performing art that has grown and developed in Kendalsari Village, Sumobito District, Jombang Regency. Since its inception in 1963, this art form has become an integral part of local life. Uniquely, the structure of a Gambus Misri performance is similar to Ludruk: it begins with an opening sung by a prayer, followed by entertaining comedic segments, and then moves on to the main story or play. The stories presented are always imbued with Islamic messages, making this performance more than just entertainment; it becomes a lively and accessible medium for Islamic preaching. Gambus Misri's distinctive characteristic also lies in its music.

The music played has Middle Eastern and classical Malay nuances, creating a religious atmosphere while also being distinctly Indonesian culturally. The music in Gambus Misri is not merely a backdrop; it becomes an integral part of the story, enhancing emotions, and shaping the performance's identity. In fact, it could be said that it was from this music that Gambus Misri Bintang Sembilan was born and continues to develop.

3.2 The Function of Music in Gambus Misri Performances

Gambus Misri's music conveys a message, combining spirituality and musical power, making the performance warm and touching. The presence of Gambus Misri Bintang Sembilan (Nine Star Gambus Misri) demonstrates that traditional performing arts can serve as a learning platform for values, a conduit for cultural heritage, and a source of educational entertainment. The Islamic values conveyed are not imposed dogmatically, but are conveyed through humor, storytelling, and rhythms familiar to the public. For this reason, Gambus Misri remains relevant and loved by various groups.

Music plays a vital role in a performance. It not only enlivens the performance but also serves other interconnected functions within the

performance and within the social sphere. As a distinctive feature of the performance, music has its own unique character. The music in Gambus Misri performances is characterized by music from the Arabic and classical Malay regions. The following is a comprehensive analysis of the function of music in Gambus Misri performances:

1. Music as a Means of Expression

Music as a means of expression focuses on serving as a medium for emotional expression to build a scene. Each scene in the performance must have its own unique atmosphere, tailored to the needs of each scene. Each mood will determine the musical style used in that scene. The melody created will create a setting; for example, a sad scene would use a soft, slow melody. A fast, strong rhythm would be used for comedy, dance, or suspense scenes. The presence of music in a performance allows the audience to better understand and immerse themselves in the story and grasp its message.

2. Music as an Accompaniment to the Narrative and Performance Structure

Music as an accompaniment to the narrative and performance structure serves as a driving force for the script, providing movement within the plot, and marking changes in acts or scenes. In Gambus Misri, this type of music often uses songs to create a bridge from one scene to the next. Music not only serves as a bridge between scenes but also serves to signal the opening and closing of a performance. In this sense, music is a crucial element in the structure of a performance.

3. Music as a Means of Entertainment and Aesthetics

Music is often interpreted as the main element in a performance. However, in a social context, music is not only a primary component of the performance but also provides beautiful sound and entertainment for the audience. The music performed is not always religious; it sometimes includes humorous interludes or uses popular songs to entertain the audience. The audience not only enjoys the visuals and narrative but also the musical form.

4. Music as a Means of Social and Interactive Interaction

Music creates a space for interaction between the audience and the characters in the performance. Gambus Misri performances often have segments where the characters interact with the audience, creating interaction not only on stage but also off it. In this performance, the characters usually provide musical cues or requests, so the music functions as an interactive interaction between the performer and the audience.

5. Music as a Means of Education and Religious Education

Music inevitably involves learning in the creation of a musical work for a performance. Gambus Misri music itself developed within Islamic boarding school (pesantren) culture, so the music performed contains moral messages from Islamic teachings. This music typically takes the form of prayers to the Prophet, whose lyrics demonstrate that music also serves as a reminder that music serves as a means of educating the values contained within it, reinforcing the messages conveyed through the music in Gambus Misri performances.

The function of music in Gambus Misri is not merely to accompany or complement the performance, but also has a deeper function. Music is used as a medium for preaching, conveying moral messages, and creating an emotional and religious atmosphere within the performance. Furthermore, music is an identity that distinguishes Gambus Misri from other arts, while also serving as a tool to combine elements of entertainment and spiritual education for the community.

3.3 The Function of Music in Gambus Misri Performances

One of the main attractions of the Nine Star Gambus Misri performance is its ability to combine educational and religious values into a consistently enjoyable entertainment. The messages of Islamic teachings and moral teachings are not delivered in a stiff or patronizing manner, but rather are presented in a light and communicative manner through various elements of the performance, such as music, humorous jokes, and plays depicting social realities. With this approach, the audience is not only entertained but also invited to reflect and be touched spiritually. Music here acts as a connecting link, bridging the religious messages and the closeness of the local culture that is familiar, simple, and full of meaning.

4. CONCLUSION

The music in Gambus Misri performances is not merely a complement to the atmosphere or background sound, but rather carries a much deeper meaning. It serves as a means of preaching that is integrated into the lives of the people. Through a combination of music, storytelling, and humor, Gambus Misri is able to convey Islamic values in a light, enjoyable, yet heartfelt manner. Music serves as a medium for instilling spiritual messages, strengthening local cultural identity, and bridging entertainment and moral education.

What makes Gambus Misri so powerful in conveying preaching is its relaxed, non-preachy approach, yet still rich in meaning. This approach makes the performances not only popular but also emotionally and spiritually beneficial for the community. Amidst the tide of modernization, the existence of Gambus Misri in the Sumobito area of Jombang proves that traditional art can remain relevant as long as it speaks the language of the people. Therefore, Gambus Misri deserves to be continuously preserved and maintained, as an art form that not only entertains but also enlightens and strengthens the soul.

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