



VOCAL MUSIC FORMS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND SOUTHEAST ASIA IN THE PRE-WAR ERA





1. INDIGENOUS SONGS

Traditional songs and chants were **used from birth ceremonies, lullabies, initiation rites, and weddings to healing the sick, praying to gods, repelling evil spirits, and performing death rituals.** Some chants were even done as **preparation for battles** and after victories in war.





1. INDIGENOUS SONGS

In the Philippines, the ambahan was a poetic, rhythmic, and monophonic chant of the Mangyan people. Other Mangyan vocal forms include **iyaya (lullabies)** and **marayaw (songs to communicate with spirits)**.

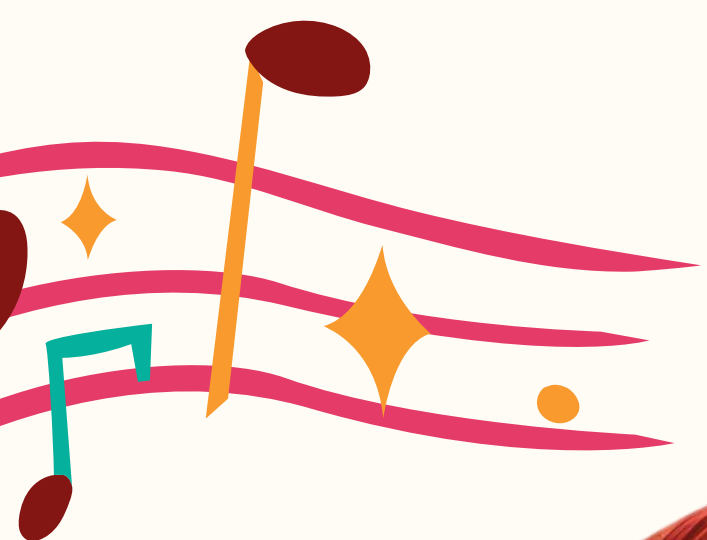


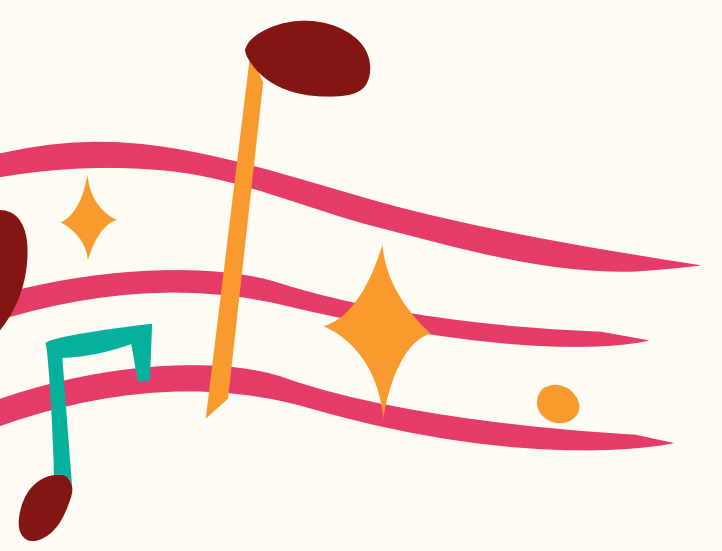


1. INDIGENOUS SONGS

Many ethnic communities in **Southeast Asia** had **their own shamans**, and in the Philippines, we called them "**babaylan**." **Chants were one of the shamanic tools** used in performing **community miracles** in Southeast Asia.



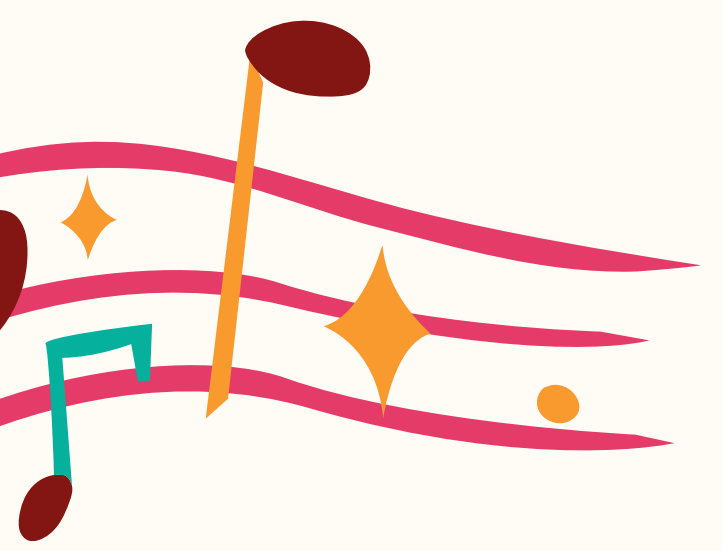




2. WORK SONGS AND CHILDREN'S CHANTS

- Songs that **accompany work** and **play** were usually rhythmic.
- The beat of the singing or chanting **guided specific actions done while working or playing.**
- Melodies accompanied the two main forms of living in Southeast Asia; **fishing and farming.**





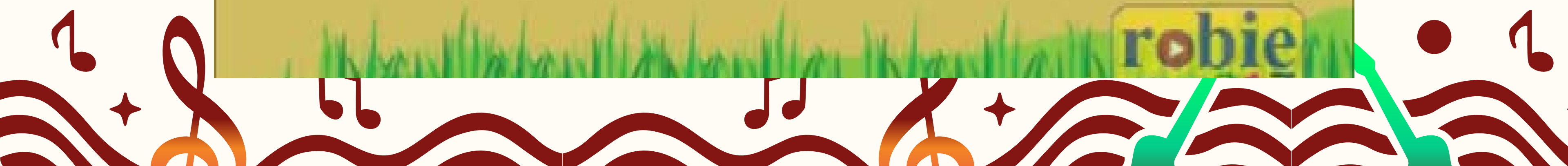
2. WORK SONGS AND CHILDREN'S CHANTS

- Rhythm accompanied **children's games**, which were often **heard on the streets**. From the Tagalog region, a famous example of a work song is "**Magtanim Ay 'Di Biro,**"





robie





3. FOLK SONGS

- From the term "**folk**" which means **people** in general, **folk songs were sung by the people in specific regions.** They sang about the **common day-to-day life in a community**, ranging from **nonsense lyrics to words of wisdom.**

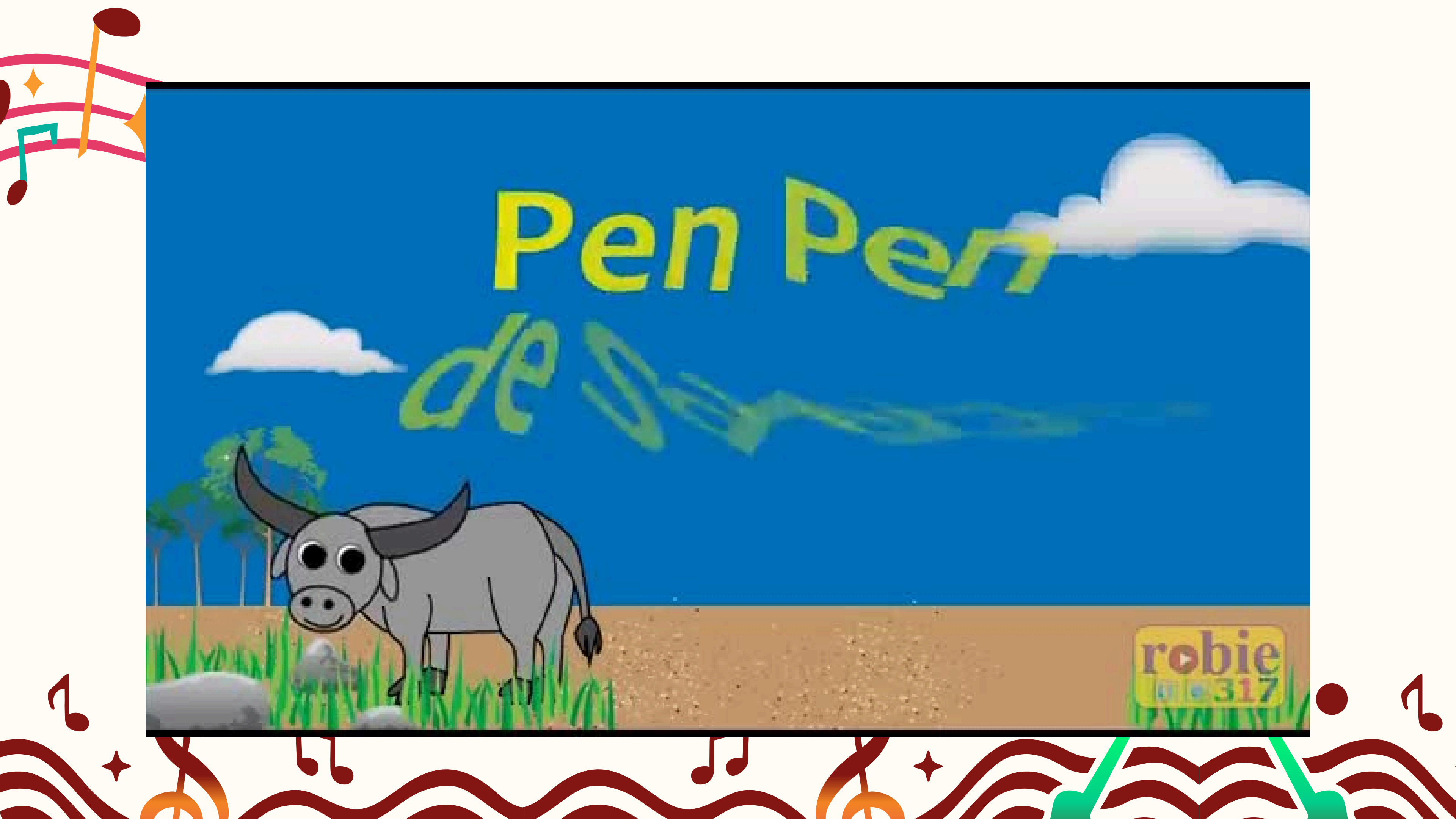




3. FOLK SONGS

- **Passed down orally through generations**, the folk songs' authors were usually unknown. Different prewar vocal music forms from the Tagalog region have either **retained their authentic forms** and music elements or **have evolved and adapted to modern and contemporary trends**.











4. SONGS ABOUT EPICS AND LEGENDS

- Singing was used to **tell stories** about **epics, legends, myths, and folktales**. This was a practice among the **indigenous peoples** of Southeast Asia. In the Philippines alone, we had **Darangen, Rajah Indarapatra**, and **Ulaging** from Mindanao.





4. SONGS ABOUT EPICS AND LEGENDS

- **Kapelawlawd**, for example, **portrays the customary neutrality of a Maranao when his friends or relatives are in conflict**. He avoids involvement by figuratively going into the "**ocean**" or "**depth**" away from the quarreling parties.

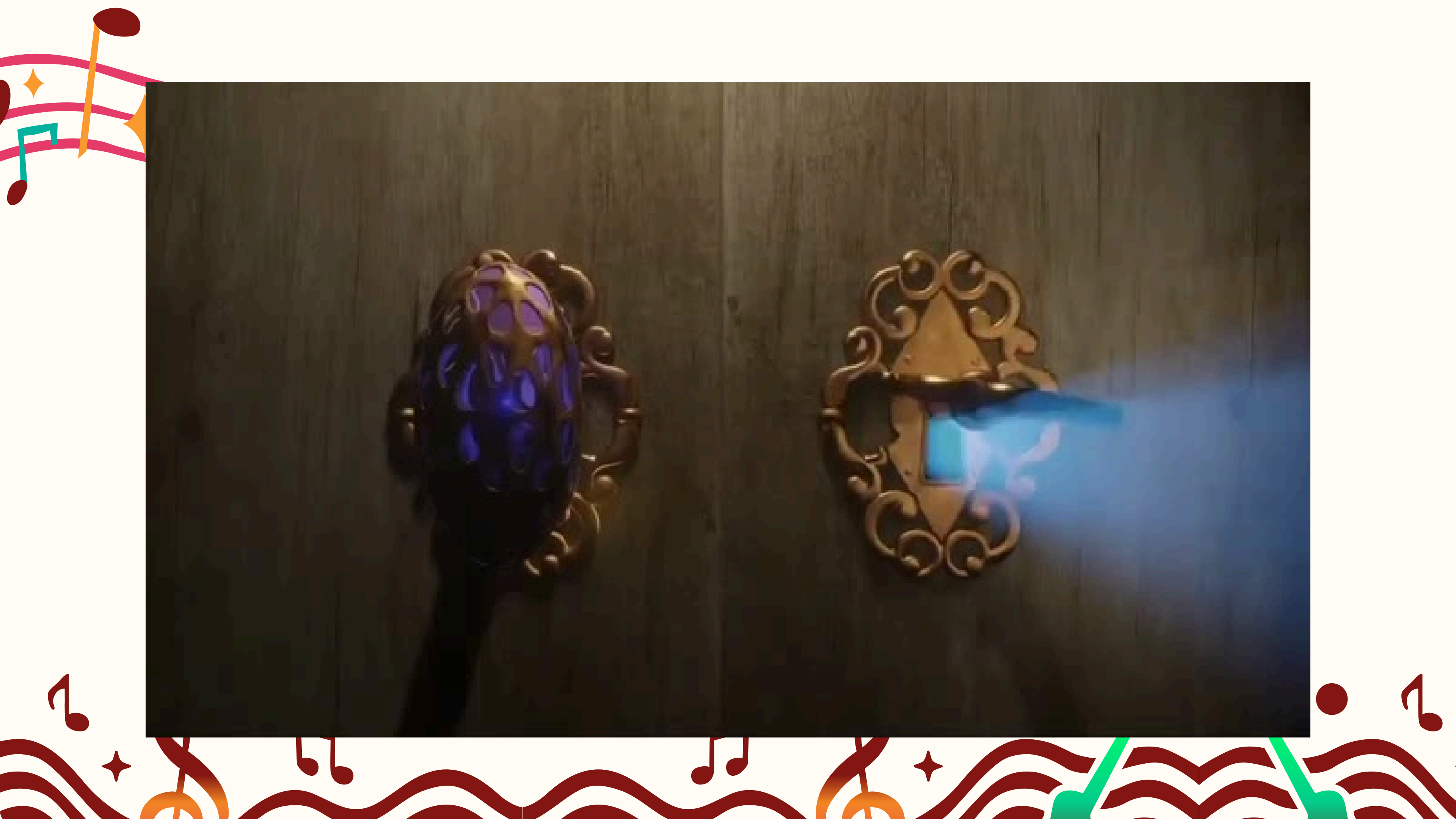




4. SONGS ABOUT EPICS AND LEGENDS

- **Kapmotantang depicts pride**, which demands that one **avenge any wrong done to him** and requires the **public humiliation of his enemy**.
- **Katebonan** reflects a **sad recollection of the famine**, which brought **hardships**, including the demeaning job of searching for tabon eggs.

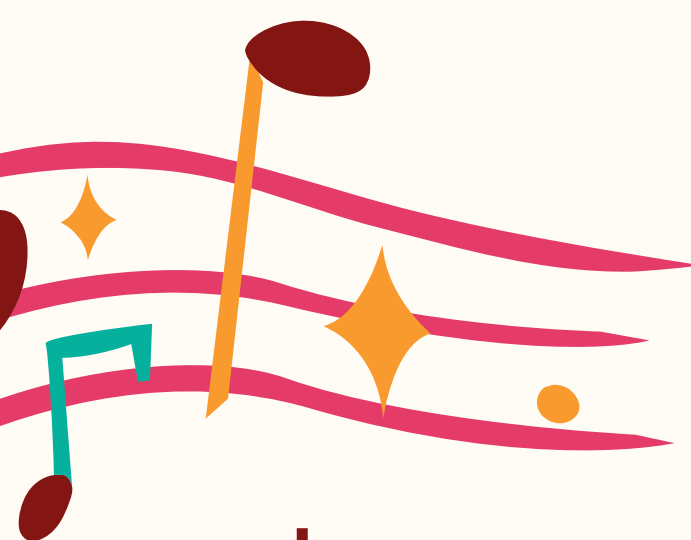




The image features a central graphic of a book cover with a dark brown, textured background. The title is written in a stylized, cursive font with a yellow outline. The background of the book cover includes a blurred image of a quill pen resting on an open book. The entire graphic is framed by a decorative border with a repeating pattern of blue and gold floral motifs. The top-left and bottom-right corners of the overall image are decorated with colorful musical notes and wavy lines in shades of red, orange, and green.

Literaturang Pilipino

“Epike”



5. LOVE SONGS

- Love was a common theme in Southeast Asian songs before the war. In Luzon and Visayas, we had **harana**—a **serenade sung by a man to show his love for a woman.**
- It was commonly accompanied by a **guitar** and other **string instruments**

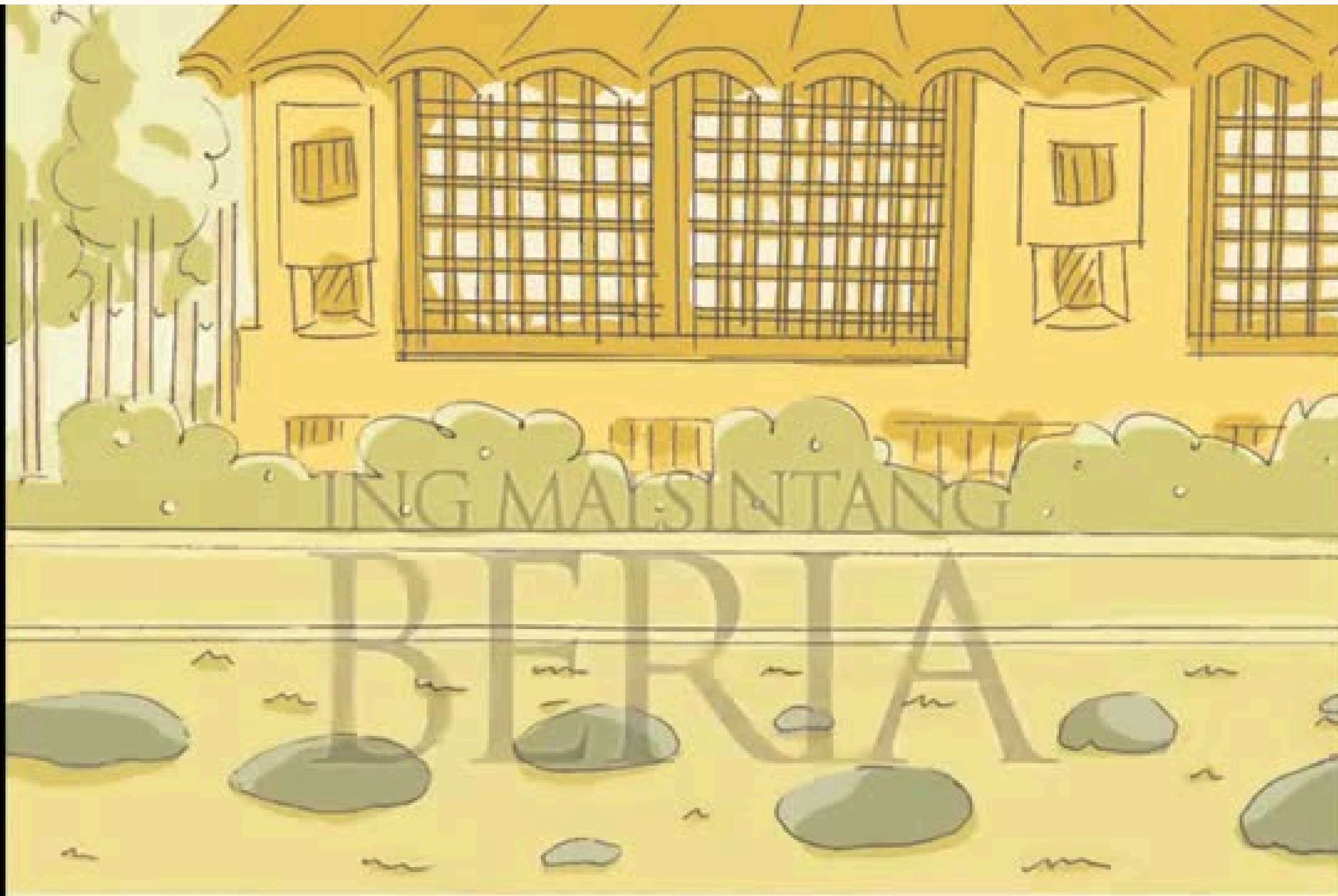
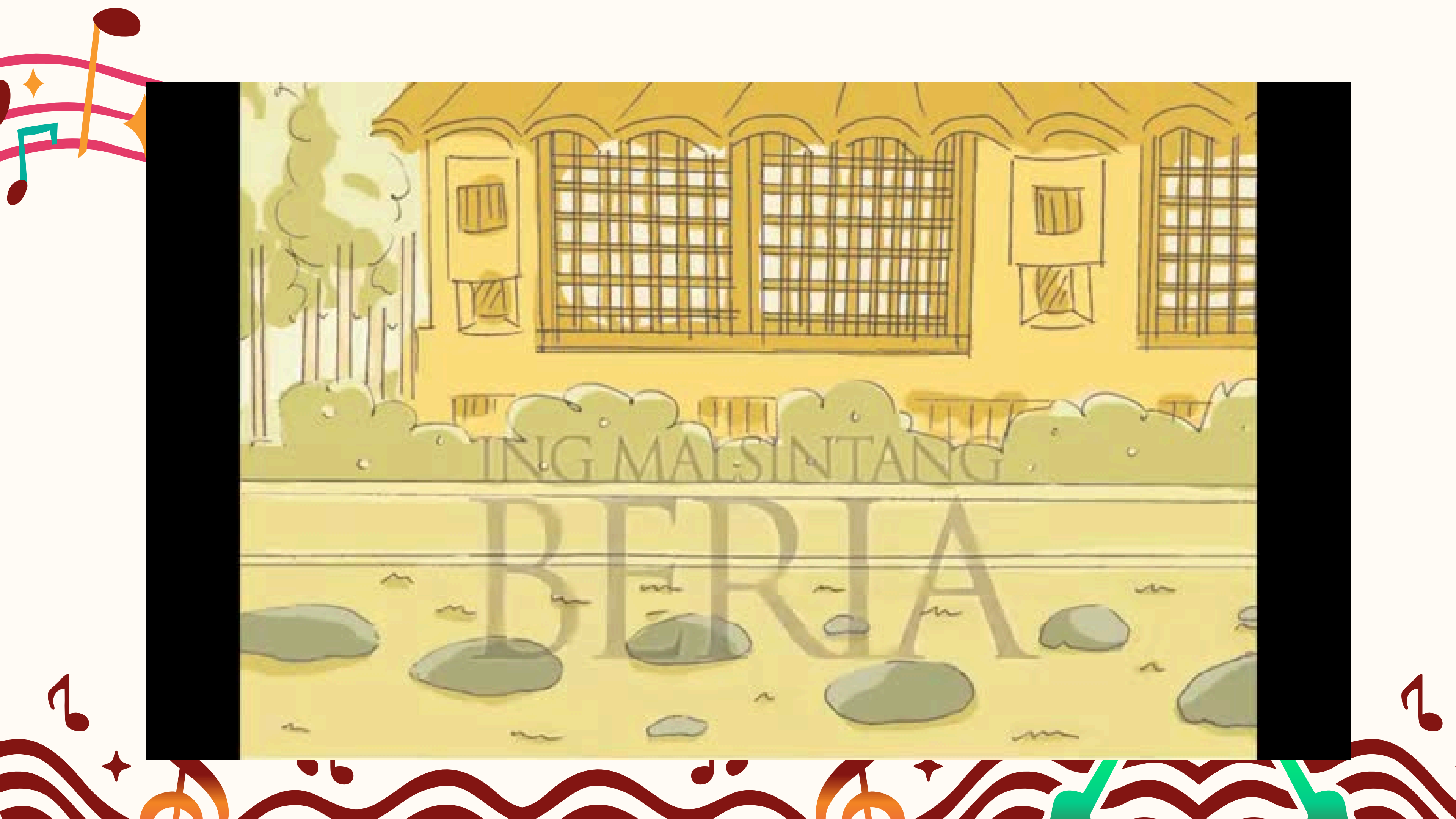




5. LOVE SONGS

- **Balitaw**—a **debate or dialogue** song in which a woman and a man **compete to see who is better at improvising romantic verses**, but sometimes memorized; and
- **Kundiman**—an art song that **speaks about the love of a man for a woman**, but usually with sad lyrics.







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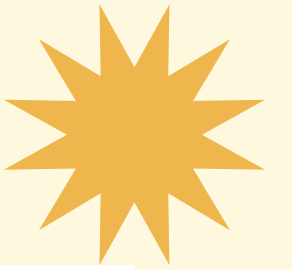
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MUSIC AND ARTS 7

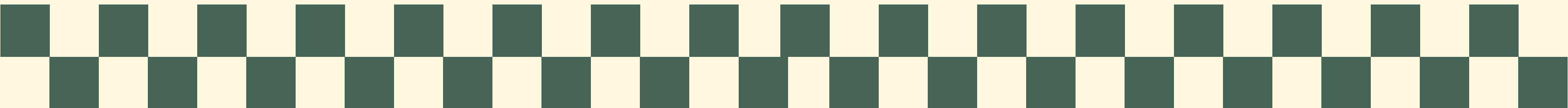
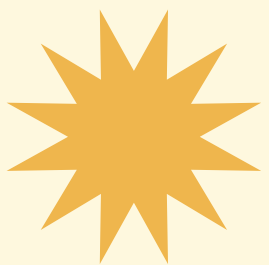


**Instrumental
Ensembles common
to the Philippines
and Southeast Asia
in the Pre-war Era.**

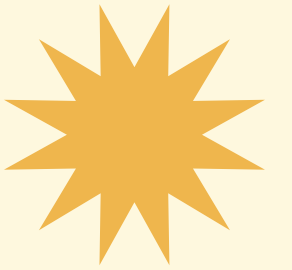
GONG



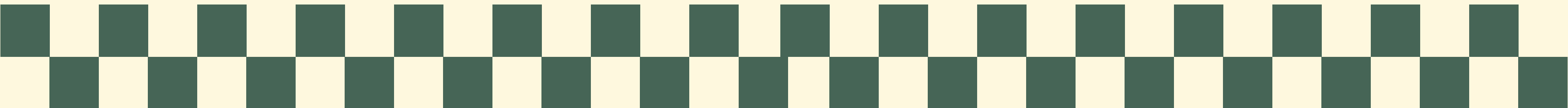
- Most common instrumental ensembles in Southeast Asia.
- A gong is a percussion instrument made mainly of **metal, usually bronze or brass.**
- It produces sound when its surface is **struck with a mallet or wooden beater.**



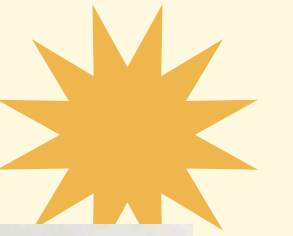
KULINTANG



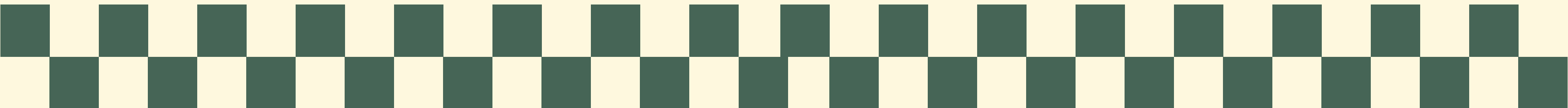
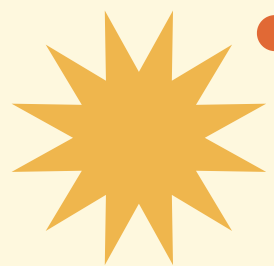
- It is a **gong-based instrument** and ensemble used for celebrations and rituals.
- The instrument is a **row of small, horizontally laid gong kettles or knobbed gongs** that are played melodically, **accompanied by larger suspended gongs and drums.**

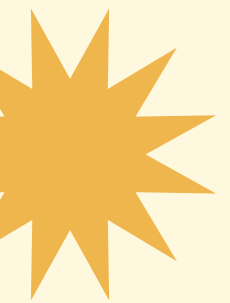


ANGKLUNG

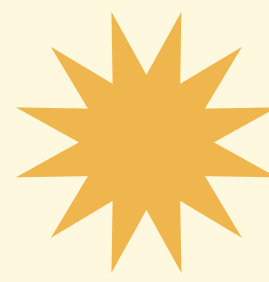


- The instrument is **made of bamboo** rattle tubes attached to a frame.
- It is played by rapidly **shaking** the bottom part of the frame while the other hand steadily holds the upper part of the instrument.
- **Smaller ones have higher pitches, and vice versa.**





Types of Traditional Instruments Common to the Philippines and Southeast Asia



1. Metal Idiophones

- Idiophones are instruments made of hard materials that produce sound by striking, scraping, rubbing, or shaking.
- These include gongs-round metallic instruments struck to produce a resonant sound, and metallophones-percussion instruments with a series of metal bars of varying pitch struck with hammers.



2. Wooden and Bamboo Percussions

- Many Southeast Asian ethnic groups believe that **bamboo serves as a spiritual connection** between the **physical and spiritual worlds**.
- Wood and bamboo percussion are **common instruments that create relaxing sounds based on nature: sounds of animals, insects, wind, rivers, and rain.**



3. Aerophones

- **Aerophones produce sound by blowing air.** Bamboo is abundant in Southeast Asia, and so this material makes up most wind instruments in the region. These include **flutes** of different sizes, played in either a **vertical** or **horizontal** manner.



4. Chordophones

- Chordophones produce sounds through the vibration of strings, whether by plucking, strumming, bowing, or even striking.



5. Membranophones

- Membranophones are instruments that **produce sound through the vibration of stretched animal skin or membrane.** Many indigenous instruments from **Southeast Asia** are made up of the skins of mammals, reptiles, and even shark scales.





**Thank
You!**

