

In light of this year's alarming events, SRRU Homecoming seeks to address the current dilemmas of our times, by finding new solutions and new possibilities to counteract the current socioeconomic systems that no longer serve to further. At the turn of the Millennium, Sacred Rhythm expounded the importance of harmonising modern day scientific and technological practices with the spiritual wisdom of earlier civilisations, so that a more interconnected and mutually corresponding synergy can occur between the arts, sciences and conscience (spirituality). Ancient civilisations understood these principles, which resulted in artistic and scientific advances that pertained to higher ideals that served to benefit their cultural development and influence over later generations. However, since the Aufklärung (Enlightenment) of the 18th Century in Western Europe, the separation of church and state created a pathos that eventually saw increasing dysconnectivity between the arts, sciences and conscience. Nowadays, scientists will appreciate art more than artists appreciate science, and many will overlook the significance religion has played in the development of each civilisation's musical heritage.

Bearing this in mind, we can look to cultures like those in Bali, which have adopted a modern way of life whilst still maintaining cultural rites that their ancestors have practised over centuries. These rites and practices may seem primitive or archaic to the western, rationalistic mind, yet nonetheless have demonstrably shown, upon close inspection, a profound wisdom and intelligence that have protected and enabled Balinese societies to flourish over centuries. This is also of significance for Homecoming, as Bali is also the home of original Sacred Rhythm Festival at the turn of the millennium, which signifies a return to the source of its origin. Furthermore, The Sacred Temple of Samuan Tiga in Ubud, Bali was chosen as the birthplace of Sacred Rhythm Festival. Samuan Tiga has served historical and spiritual significance for the Balinese, and today remains a sacred place of worship in their contemporary society. Through inter-cultural dialogue, the Balinese sought to co-exist in peace and harmony amongst various sects and belief systems throughout their past. The lessons of this sacred reconciliation are that not only should the Balinese bear these fruits, but humanity as a whole.

The movement restrictions that have arisen as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic have also provided the opportunity for the Homecoming festival to occur digitally from different corners of the world, with different artists contributing from locations in Indonesia, the UK, US, India, Iran and Cambodia. With Bali at the core of Homecoming, the other acts naturally compliment this, both musically and in an humanistic sense, where networks are established from this core through personal close points of contact, and reaching out to wider audiences in the process. Through these endeavours, networks of trust get established through these points of contact, which in turn can co-create built on the mutual understanding that new possibilities need to arise, to counter economic, environmental and cultural collapse. To counter practices of self-interest, the practices of trust, mutual enrichment and bond-strengthening through co-creative endeavours become the currencies of exchange, which in turn can set a precedent for future endeavours to stave off impending economic and environmental catastrophe.

This also gives rise to the other definition of Homecoming, namely a return home, or back to basics. We are stuck at home during lockdown, economic problems have meant we have to rely on minimal resources, yet we have no alternative but to preserve amidst these adversities. Rather than casting our net far and wide, we should be seeking to embolden what we have within our reach, as only by working with what we have, can we then healthily grow in a manner that mutually benefits everyone amidst the ensuing difficulties. By realigning to a source of origin through a diversity of corresponding expressive mediums, we not only are strengthening and inaugurating our own networks and audiences, but we are also exerting the cultural significance of the arts, made possible through the technological and scientific advancements that enable us to overcome physical limitations. In turn our mutual interests give rise to a heightened understanding to the interconnectivity these factors and our roles ultimately play in the broader context of such endeavours, and the ethical considerations that are required for in our corresponding practices to result in a harmonious co-collaborative process, enhances our sense of a collective conscience, interconnecting art, science and spirituality, past, present and future in the process.