



Incidentally, a similar tempo deceleration (with concomitant increase in lower-level density) occurs in some Javanese gamelan pieces. The term for these different tempos is *irama*. At a signal from the drummer, the ensemble will seemingly “shift gears” to a more relaxed *irama*, a central section during which some of the instruments will shift to playing a more elaborate version of the *balungan* in a 2:1 or 4:1 rhythmic ratio. Another signal from the drummer instigates a gradual acceleration of the ensemble to the original tempo, and the players who were playing the more elaborate layers shift back to doubling the *balungan* with the rest of the ensemble.