



Chapter 10
The People of
Rebana Kercing



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The presence of Persian-Arabic traders in Kampung Laut circa 150 to 200 years ago has brought the influence of Islamic arts and teachings. While trading, they were believed to have spread the teachings of Islam to the locals. The art of Rebana Kercing was introduced as a form of entertainment, attracting the local people to learn and play the performing art. Specifically, men were trained to sing and play musical instruments, while boys were trained to sing and dance. The teachings were done through word-of-mouth, without structured notes.

Since its introduction, the art of Rebana Kercing has been played continuously and merged with the Kampung Laut community. It had given birth to famous talents in Kampung Laut, such as Awang Besar and Pak Min, who were among the earliest generations to learn and master the art of Rebana Kercing. Their involvement was not limited to entertaining people with Rebana Kercing performances but also developing more talents, such as the group of Rebana Kercing performers who had performed at weddings, feasts, and during inauguration ceremonies.