- 1951 Earns his BA in music and MA in composition from UCLA
- 1951-1954 Studies with Jaap Kunst at the University of Amsterdam
- 1954 Completes PhD from the University of Amsterdam
- 1954 Publishes The Nuclear Theme as a Determinant of Patet in Javanese Music
- 1954 Joins the faculty at UCLA and establishes the gamelan Udan Mas study group
- 1957-1959 Fieldwork in Java

1958 – Purchases and ships the Javanese gamelan Khjai Mendung (Venerable Dark Cloud) to UCLA with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation

1958 - Invites Charles Seeger to join the ethnomusicology faculty at UCLA

1960 - The Institute of Ethnomusicology at UCLA officially founded

1960 – The Southern California Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology was formally organized February 9, 1960, at the Music Building, University of California at Los Angeles. (The Chairman for 1960 is Boris Kremenliev. Members and prospective members present were Willem Adriaansz, Lois Anderson, Robert Brown, Sharon Carrigan, Sam Chianis, Hormoz Farhat, Max Harrell, Mantle Hood, Boris Kremenliev, William Malm, Gertrude Robinson, and Charles Seeger)

1963 – Records and releases *The Exotic Sounds of Bali: Gamelan Gong Sekar Anjar* (Columbia Records)

1963 - Invites Klaus Wachsmann to join the ethnomusicology faculty at UCLA

1964 – Films and releases *Atumpan: The Talking Drums of Ghana* (UCLA Institute of Ethnomusicology)

1965 – Records gamelan and gagaku soundtracks for the film *Lord Jim*, directed by Richard Brooks, starring Peter O'Toole

1965 - Invites Ravi Shankar and Alla Rahka to UCLA as Artists in Residence

1965 – Films Ravi Shankar playing and interacting with various UCLA Ethnomusicology ensembles for proposed film *Ravi Meets*...

1965-1967 - Serves as President of the Society for Ethnomusicology

1967 – Records and releases *Music of The Venerable Dark Cloud: The Javanese Gamelan Khjai Mendung* (UCLA Institute of Ethnomusicology Publications)

1968 - Invites J.H. Kwabena Nketia to join the ethnomusicology faculty at UCLA

1971 – Publishes The Ethnomusicologist

1974 – Retires to Hawai'i where he composes, writes novels, and serves as an editor of *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* 

1980 – Moves to Maryland, where he founds the program of ethnomusicology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

1980-1988 – Publishes *The Evolution of Javanese Gamelan* (Vol. 1: *Music of the Roaring Sea*; Vol. 2: *The Legacy of the Roaring Sea*; Vol. 3: *Paragon of the Roaring Sea*)

1986 - Receives the honorific title "Ki" from the government of Indonesia

- 1992 Receives membership into the Indonesian Dharma Kusuma (Society of National Heroes)
- 1996 Retires from UMBC
- 2002 Awarded the prestigious USINDO Award by the United States-Indonesia Society

2003 – Awarded the honorary doctorate in ethnomusicology from the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Cologne, Germany