



Chapter 3
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A fine-grained discussion on the current situation of the Rebana Kercing performing art has been outlined in Chapter 2, with a slight touch on its historical aspect. More comprehensive coverage of its history will be discussed in this chapter to reminisce the ordeals that the art has gone through in maintaining its pristine heritage.

As previously emphasised, the art originated from Kampung Laut, Kelantan, whose existence is now threatened with extinction. It is believed to have existed since the 18th century (Zakaria, 2017). According to the advisor of the Rebana Kercing Association in Kampung Laut, Mr Harun Bin Hassan, otherwise known as Pak Su Harun, Rebana Kercing was first introduced by Persian and Arabic merchants who stopped by in Kampung Laut that served as a bustling trading port in the past.

THE ORIGINS OF REBANA KERCING

The introduction of Rebana Kercing as a unique traditional heritage is said to have resulted from the *dakwah* activities performed by traders in the old days (Amran et al., 2021). The community, especially young kids during those times, were attracted to learn more about Islam and Islamic teachings embedded in the Rebana Kercing activities.

“The Rebana Kercing originated from Persian and Arabian regions, where traders from these regions came to Kelantan by sea and stopped in Kampung Laut.”

“The Persian and Arab traders who came to Kampung Laut at that time, aside from conveying Islamic teachings to the community, also introduced the art by bringing various songs and dances intended to praise the greatness of the God and the Prophet.”