

Black String

Contemporary Korean Music in India

Black String aims to create a new sound that internalises a variety of musical expressions in traditional music, as well as harmonises with other expressions in Jazz and World music. The resultant new sound is reinterpreted by artists who embrace traditional music as well as jazz, reflecting composed and improvised creations. The performance focuses on improvisation as an important aspect of Korean traditional music and attempts to create a unique language through Asian intuition and its unique musical idiom. This critically acclaimed Korean group premieres in India in November 2015.



World-music band, Black String was founded in 2011 as part of a government-sponsored Korea-UK cultural exchange program titled "UK Connection" project. The band consists of Yoon-jeong Heo (Geomungo; Six-string zither), Aram Lee (Daegum; Large bamboo flute), Jean Oh (Jazz guitar).

The band made its debut at the Jarasum International Jazz Festival (Korea) and at the London Jazz Festival (UK) in 2012 collaborating with UK artists such as Tim Garland (Saxophone), John Turville (Piano/Keys), Asaf Sirkis (Drums) and Gwilym Simcock (Piano). Since then the band has expanded their musical repertoire by teaming up with prominent Korean artists such as Min-su Kang (Korean Traditional Percussions and vocal), Dongjin Shin (Drums & Percussion), Bora Kim (Korean Traditional Vocal), Min wang Hwang (Ajaeng, Korean Traditional Percussion).

Performances/Awards to date:

- 2012 London Jazz Festival (U.K.)
Jazz Topad (Poland)
- 2013 Oslo World Music Festival (Norway) Penang Island Jazz Festival (Malaysia)
- 2014 Jarasum International Jazz Festival (Republic of Korea)
Selected as a PAMS CHOICE by KAMS (Republic of Korea)
Jazz Korea(Germany)
2015 Clandestino Festival (Sweden) National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Korea) <The Seoul Connection> at KORZO (Netherlands) <Black String> at Casa da Musica (Portugal)





Leader of Black String, **Yoon-jeong Heo** is an incredibly talented *Geomungo* player and composer. She is interested in exploring the possibilities of extending the range of the *Geomungo* to bring together different genres ranging from Korean traditional music, contemporary music and improvisation she is the founder and leader of World music project band "Tori Ensemble" which was selected at the 2010 PAMS Showcase and was invited as the opening concert to the 2010 WOMEX, 2011 WOMAD UK, 2012 WOMAD AU, and 2012 WOMAD NZ. "Black String" is her new project after "Tori Ensemble". Yoon-jeong Heo recently received The Brand Laureate - International Brand Personality Award (2013) which is a prestigious award presented to leaders who have significantly contributed to the development of their organizations, countries or the world at large She was recently was chosen as "Artist of the Year" at the Yeowoorak Festival 2015, which is an important Korean Traditional Music Festival.

The following musicians will perform in India as part of the Black String ensemble in November 2015:



Jean Oh, is a guitarist who has studied in Seoul, Paris and New York. Since the beginning of his professional career, he has played on several commercially released recordings and toured throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, South America, Philippine, Russia. He has , on several occasions, shared the stage with George GarZone, John Lockwood, Jeff Hirshfield, Billy Drummond, Ralph Alessi, Ron McClure, Mike Richmond, Miroslav Vitous and several other acclaimed musicians. Recently, he released his second album "A Portrait with Yesterday".



Aram Lee is a *daegeum* player and composer who has a very busy career including a stint as director of Korean Traditional Music Group 'NaMu' and the Multi National Theatre 'Unikaji'. He has participated in a number of original sound tracks for Korean TV dramas and movies. He has received numerous awards such as Donga Korean Music Competition, PADAF (Play and Dance Art Festival). He was selected as *Person of Creative Talent* from KOCCA as well as *Young Artist Frontier* by Arts Council Korea at 2013.



Dongjin Shin is a skilled percussionist and plays both the Western drums and Korean traditional percussion.



Min Wang Hwang is an acclaimed Korean Traditional percussionist and Ajaeng player.

Performance dates in India

19 November: Chennai

22 November: Kochi

26 November: Kolkata

We thank our partners in Korea and India who have supported the premiere of Black String in India:

PAMS (Performing Arts Market in Seoul)



PAMS (Performing Arts Market in Seoul) is an annual international performing arts market, where members of the industry, including artists, arts groups, managers, theater programmers, festival artistic directors and performance planners, can gather together in one place, share artistic visions and exchange information on performance art trends. PAMS was established in 2005 with the support of the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism to promote the development of international distribution channels for Korean performing arts.

Korea Arts Management Service (KAMS)



KAMS (Korea Arts Management Service) was established in January 2006 as a non-profit, public foundation for the development of Korean performing arts. With support from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, KAMS offers multi-faceted assistance that aims to bolster the sustainability of arts groups and organizations, while strengthening their competitive advantages by developing diverse and effective support systems or more efficient arts management. KAMS enables performing arts companies in Korea to broaden their horizons and presence by evaluating their management strategy, offering consulting services, and expanding their market capability through innovative distribution networks in domestic and overseas markets.

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST)



The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism develops and implements a wide range of policies to promote culture, arts, sports, tourism and religion so as to provide cultural opportunities to the public. A total of 30 information officers are dispatched by the Ministry to 26 Korean Cultural Centers in 21 countries. www.korea.net, the government's official multilingual website, is run by the Ministry's major subsidiary, the Korean Culture and Information Service (KOCIS).

Consulate General of the Republic of Korea



The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Chennai, aims to foster close and mutually beneficial relations between South Korea and India, particularly in the fields of trade, investments, tourism and people-to-people relations. The Consulate also services the consular requirements of the growing Korean community in South India and extends assistance to nationals under its jurisdiction- i.e. in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Kolkata International Music Festival



Song of Soul presents the Kolkata International Music Festival, an annual festival to celebrate the creativity of cultures and individuals from across India and the globe. Be it folk, Jazz, Fusion, Classical or World Music, KIMF promises to present the best of these genres. KIMF believes in the power of art to transform life. The Festival has been recognised by several international organisations and has extended support to more than 1800 rural artists in India.

Rajagiri Group



Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, together with its sister educational concerns, owes its existence to the CMI fathers, the first ever indigenous religious congregation for men in the Syrian Catholic tradition of Christianity in India. The vision of Rajagiri is "to become a centre par excellence of learning, unique in experience, value based in approach and pioneering in efforts for enriching and fulfilling life". Rajagiri was declared as an autonomous institution by the UGC last year, a landmark decision in the educational history of Kerala state. Rajagiri's Centre for Business Studies has consistently been ranked by Outlook, Competition Success Review, Business India, Business World, The Week and India Today magazines, as one of the Best B-Schools in the country. Rajagiri School of Social Work is a pioneer in professional Social Work education in South India.