

Inter-cultural dialogue

EVENT "The Forest" will layer Korean rhythms with Latin American beats to produce exhilarating patterns



Deep Woods
The Forest from Korea
November 17, 7.15,
Music Academy

Today if experiment beckons traditional musicians, heritage calls modern musicians. "The Forest", the first crossover band in Korea, found that when the two genres are mixed well, the result is more contemporary than conscious efforts in that direction. East and west, wood and metal, natural and electronic, meet in their pioneering experiments.

To create the chiaroscuro of the woods, six traditional musicians with flutes (So-geum, Danso, Daegeum, Taepyungso), fiddle (Haegeum), lute (Geomungo) and zither (Gayageum) join three modern musicians with acoustic and bass guitar, piano, synthesiser, accordion and fife. They discovered that layering Korean rhythms with Latin American beats produced exhilarating patterns, while the melodies of their motherland are vivified by western pop and jazz strains.

The initial challenge was to overcome differences in

tone, volume and code in the different instruments, particularly as the native wooden instruments have a scale varying from the metallic. The scope and character of each had to be fully grasped before harmonising them. There were no readymade rules or guides. Only practice could identify what they could do. The process taught them to focus on reverberation with the traditional forms, and melody with the modern.

"The Forest" comes to Chennai for the first time after triumphs in Singapore,

the U.S., Ukraine and Azerbaijan and Turkey. It is brought to the Friday Review November Fest by InKo Centre and The Korea Foundation as part of their consistent efforts to promote inter-cultural dialogue.

GOWRI RAMNARAYAN

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'To perform here is a challenge'

Lim members speak

On musical balance

Similar thoughts and tastes brought us together. New members are taken on after audition and internship to see if they are in sync with these ideas. The greater the rapport and effort, the more we understand each component, their differences and distinctiveness. The important thing is to play, play, and play.

On their name

Modern music is typically fast and

frenzied. We want to make music that is soothing and relaxing. Our music has the sound of the wind, the rain, even animals and plants. In other words, we want to make music that you encounter in a forest. We can be both excited and comforted by Nature.

On words and sounds

Our first album had no lyrics. Some songs in our second album are inspired by the old Korean verse form "sijo", or sonnets. We

will make more songs like this in the future.

On the biggest challenge

The biggest challenge is to share our music with international audiences. In the last three years we have given many concerts overseas. The performance in India is a big challenge for us and we know how great it will be when we connect with listeners in Chennai.