



# **2017 K-MUSIC**

**15 SEPTEMBER – 25 OCTOBER 2017**

**LONDON'S  
FESTIVAL OF  
KOREAN MUSIC**

# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Dear Friends,**

With our festival partners SERIOUS we are thrilled and excited to bring to you the fourth K-Music Festival. This annual celebration of K-Music is a chance for audiences to see and hear a stunning selection of live music from all across the musical spectrum and at some of London's leading music venues. I am pleased to announce that K-Music 2017 also has a special focus this year, namely an emphasis upon collaboration. Throughout the line-up you will see various musicians coming together as part of the **Korea/UK 2017-18** season, a year-long cultural event that encourages exchange within the arts between both nations.

As well as some stand out individual performances, we have commissioned some exciting new collaborations for this year, so that the artists may explore their practices in ways that they may not have considered before. The 2017 K-Music Festival will present nine Korean bands beginning with **Black String** who are joined by musician, composer and broadcaster **Kathryn Tickell**. Fans seeking something unique should see the visually stunning show by the extraordinary singer **Heemoon Lee** and the jazz group **Prelude**. The brilliant and dynamic harmonica musician **Jeduk Jeon** will collaborate with **Juwon Park** who triggered a gypsy jazz guitar craze in the Korean pop music industry.

**Woojae Park**, a geomungo player has created a new piece of work with **Soumik Datta**, a British Indian composer and **Shogo Yoshii**, a Japanese musician. This collaboration brings together the inspiring sounds of traditional instruments from Korea, Japan and India. Fans of Ska music will be pleased to see Korea's leading ska band **Kingston Rudieska** join us for a show as well.

We continue to bring together traditional Korean musicians and classical performers with **Korean Sounds – East Meets West: Love**, a show that will present how the most powerful of all human emotions can be expressed in two different musical formats. **Hyelim Kim**, a great daegeum player opens up new possibilities for how traditional instruments can be used as tools to promote exchange between a wide variety of musical cultures. Kim will perform with singer, violinist and composer **Alice Zawadzki**. Also, don't miss the psychedelic pansori-rock band **AUX**'s stage at Rich Mix. The festival will draw to a close with **Jiha Park** who returns to the K-Music Festival with her first solo album entitled *Communion*.

We hope that you can join us for this month-long musical treat and look forward to seeing you at the K-Music Festival.

**Hoseong Yong**  
Director, Korean Cultural Centre UK

# AN INTRODUCTION TO K-MUSIC 2017

by Simon Broughton, editor-in-chief of Songlines

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The absolute juxtaposition of ancient and modern is one of things that makes Korea such an exciting place to visit and one of the reasons the K-Music Festival is always so rewarding. Experience musical traditions with roots reaching back hundreds, even thousands of years alongside the latest technology and aesthetic.

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FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

## **BLACK STRING & KATHRYN TICKELL**

UNION CHAPEL, ISLINGTON

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The headline group of K-Music 2017 is Black String — a quartet of superb musicians on Korean instruments with a fiery jazz sensibility. The group's leader, Yoon Jeong Heo explains that the band's name, *Black String*, is the literal meaning of *geomungo*, the instrument she plays. Plucked with a stick, it's one of Korea's distinctive zithers whose origins go back to the 4th century. She's joined by Jean Oh on guitar, Aram Lee on *daegeum* flute and Min Wang Hwang on *janggu* drum and percussion. *'It's the interplay and visceral excitement of the playing that makes this group so strong,'* wrote the Evening Standard of their debut album *Mask Dance*.

Specially for K-Music, Black String are working with Northumbrian smallpipes player Kathryn Tickell who first encountered them playing their music on Radio 3's *World on 3*. Like the Koreans, she plays a traditional instrument but re-oriented into the 21st century. *'I can't wait to hear what sort of music we might make together!'* she says.

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SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

## **HEEMOON LEE & PRELUDE**

ROYAL ALBERT HALL (ELGAR ROOM)

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With the jazz ensemble Prelude, Heemoon Lee is no conventional jazz singer. Sometimes sporting a fright wig, he draws on folk, jazz and contemporary performance to create a show full of energy and humour. He's had serious traditional training, but in K-Music style he brings it totally up to date.



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WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER  
**JEDUK JEON & JUWON PARK**  
PIZZAEXPRESS JAZZ CLUB, SOHO

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You would never expect that K-Music could bring you an unforgettable concert of harmonica with gypsy guitar. But Jeduk Jeon and Juwon Park have become sensations with this in Korea. Self-taught Jeduk Jeon released his first album in 2004 and one critic entitled it 'one of the note-worthy musical accomplishments of this era.' Juwon Park has been hailed as 'the Paco de Lucia of Korea.' Certainly something worth debating over a pizza.



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MONDAY 2 OCTOBER  
**HYELIM KIM & ALICE ZAWADZKI**  
VORTEX, DALSTON

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K-Music is keen to curate collaborations and another one to watch out for is that between London-based singer/violinist Alice Zawadzki and sublime *daegeum* flute player Hyelim Kim. The combination of Zawadzki's spontaneous vocals and virtuoso violin, with the transcendental, buzzing sound of the Korean flute will be something special.

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MONDAY 9 OCTOBER  
**WOOJAE PARK with SHOGO YOSHII & SOUMIK DATTA**  
RICH MIX, SHOREDITCH

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The unifying name between this collaboration is the internationally-renowned choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. He has brought together all three of these artists, from Korea, Japan and India/UK, in his astonishing dance piece *Fractus V* — and from that, this special performance has gelled.

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MONDAY 9 OCTOBER  
**KOREAN SOUNDS: LOVE**  
KINGS PLACE, KINGS CROSS

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Pansori is often described as 'Korean opera'. Musical storytelling would be a better description as one singer narrates the whole story, taking on the role of many characters. But just like opera it's a powerful and dramatic form — and rendered with much slimmer resources: just a singer and a drummer, while a fan and a screen are all you need for props and a set. Opera stories often have tragic endings — think *La Traviata* or *Tosca* — while pansori always ends happily.

In this intriguing juxtaposition, several songs from the most popular pansori, *Chunhyangga*, a love story, are performed by singers Eunhye Jung and Sukki Yoon, with percussionist (gosu) Taeyong Kim. In part 2, Korean tenor Konu Kim and Australian soprano Lauren Fagan, both from the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme of the Royal Opera House, sing love songs by Grieg, Strauss, Schubert, Lehár, Puccini and Korean composer Juwoon Kim.

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SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER

**AUX**

RICH MIX, SHOREDITCH

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A fearless contemporary Korean six-piece featuring traditional instruments like the raucous *taepyeongso* shawm, which they admit is difficult to combine with western instruments. But they've been managing to bring the irreconcilable together since they started in 2008. They took their name from the output on a mixing desk!



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MONDAY 23 OCTOBER

**KINGSTON RUDIESKA**

BORDERLINE, SOHO

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Korea's first traditional ska band. Yes, you read that right. With 100+ performances a year, the nine-piece Kingston Rudieska have been Korea's foremost ambassadors of Jamaican ska, reggae, dub and *nyabingi* drumming since 2004. With the soulful vocals of 'Sugar' Seok Yul Lee, they've played all Korea's major festivals and this is their premiere performance in Europe.

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WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER

**JIHA PARK: COMMUNION**

KINGS PLACE, KINGS CROSS

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Jiha Park first came to K-Music as leader of the acclaimed duo *숨* [su : m] in 2015, and she's back this year with a new group and a new piece called *Communion* which has also received wide acclaim. Park plays various Korean wind instruments like the reedy *piri* and *saenghwang* (Korean mouth organ) with vibraphone, bass clarinet and double bass. As the name suggests, there's a spiritual quality to the music.



# BLACK STRING & KATHRYN TICKELL

FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER, onstage 7.30pm, £15 +bkg  
Union Chapel, Islington



This year there will be several collaborations with international artists and the festival opens with the remarkable, **Black String**, joined by musician, composer and broadcaster **Kathryn Tickell**.

*'I first encountered Black String through World on 3 on BBC Radio 3. The first track I heard was so intense and compelling — vast soundscapes, full of strange noises — alien, yet full of humanity. The more I listened, the more I felt drawn in by the music, and a sense of connection started to grow. There were little flashes of communication between their instruments and mine, the strength of tradition that underpins my music and theirs. I can't wait to hear what sort of music we might make together!'* **Kathryn Tickell**



On their latest, highly acclaimed album, *Mask Dance* (ACT Records), Black String combine the geomungo (traditional zither) and janggu (percussion) with electric jazz guitar, electronics and daegeum (bamboo flute). Founded in 2011 and led by **Yoon Jeong Heo**, they explore the deep, bass-like sound of the geomungo to create mesmerizing, innovative music, pushing the borders between tradition, modernity and improvisation, as Yoon Jeong explains, *'Korea has a very long music tradition but we are modern people. We live in Seoul in the 21st century although I think in my DNA there is something very old, a deep reflection of traditional Korean culture... The music of Black String is based on traditional Korean folk and court music and has very complicated rhythm patterns. Our music is about collaboration because we want to make Korean traditional music accessible to a wider audience.'*

Kathryn Tickell is widely acclaimed as the foremost exponent of the Northumbrian pipes and her work is deeply rooted in the landscape and people of Northumbria. She has released 15 of her own albums to date and has recorded and performed with Sting, The Chieftains, Penguin Café.

# HEEMOON LEE & PRELUDE

SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, onstage 8pm, £15 +bkg  
Royal Albert Hall, Elgar Room



Seven Korean men created a show for the National Theatre of Korea — and now it's touring the world! *Korean Man* takes a hilarious look at male/female roles today, blending Korean folk music and jazz.

Their visually stunning show is led by extraordinary singer **Heemoon Lee**, and features the jazz group **Prelude**, who came together at Berklee School of Music.



# JEDUK JEON & JUWON PARK

WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER, onstage 8.30pm, £15 +bkg  
PizzaExpress Jazz Club, Soho




Harmonica legend **Jeduk Jeon** is one of the great figures of Korean music today. Blind since birth, he's been compared to Toots Thielemans for his formidably virtuosic style.

Guitarist **Juwon Park**'s band has been influenced by flamenco and gypsy jazz, but their range goes even wider. Expect a soulful celebration from this special collaboration.



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# HYELIM KIM & ALICE ZAWADZKI

MONDAY 2 OCTOBER, onstage 8.45pm, £15 +bkg  
Vortex, Dalston



The K-Music festival has been proud to commission some major collaborations, and this one is really special. **Hyelim Kim**, a superb daegeum (bamboo flute) player, has played with Nils Frahm and Lubomyr Melnyk, literally breathing new life into Korean traditional music, and she has reached out to singer **Alice Zawadzki** to join her in this partnership.

Jamie Cullum called Alice '*beautiful and uncategorisable — a real force to be reckoned with*', and her dramatic voice, warm humour and creative enthusiasm have left critics comparing her to Bjork and Tori Amos. Together, they chose guitarist Rob Luft and bassist Misha Mullov-Abbado to create a real band of titans for this one special performance.

# WOOJAE PARK WITH SHOGO YOSHII & SOUMIK DATTA

MONDAY 9 OCTOBER, onstage 8.30pm, £15 +bkg

Rich Mix, Shoreditch



**Woojae Park** is best known in Europe for his beautiful collaborations with choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui — he created the music for *Fractus V*, which played at Sadler's Wells and toured worldwide. In a rave review, *The Guardian* described the music as '*a marvellous braid of sound, fusing Middle Eastern influences to a wildly ecstatic pitch — as a fierce expression of unity, it resonates across the work*'. His main instrument is the geomungo, the stunning bowed instrument that powers the playing of other bands who have featured in the K-Music programme, like Jambinai and Geomungo Factory.





For this concert, which has been specially created for K-Music 2017, he is joined by two of the other creative voices that joined him in *Fractus V*. Japanese drummer **Shogo Yoshii** was a member of the legendary taiko ensemble Kodo, and has toured with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui for many years. British Indian composer and sarod player **Soumik Datta** was featured earlier this year in his own Channel 4 series — Soumik's concerts bridge the world of Indian classical and contemporary music. His artistic hallmarks are his collaborations with other artists: Beyonce, Jay-Z, Bill Bailey, Manu Delago, Akram Khan, Nitin Sawhney, Anoushka Shankar, Bernhard Schimpelsberger and Talvin Singh, to name just a few.





# KOREAN SOUNDS EAST MEETS WEST: LOVE

WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER, onstage 7.30pm, £12.50 - £16.50

Kings Place, Kings Cross



This concert focuses on the dramatic genres – opera from the West and Pansori (musical storytelling) from the East. In the first half of the concert, Korean pansori singers perform excerpts from pansori literature, including three love songs from the most famous pansori, *'Chunhyangga'*.

*'Mancheobcheongsan Sarangga (love song)'* from *Chunhyangga*

*'Jajin Sarangga (love song) Ibsechang'* from *Chunhyangga*

*Memory*

*'Farewell song' and 'Ssukdaemeori'* from *Chunhyangga*

*'Namdo minyo heungtareong'*

*'Reunion between a father and his daughter'* from *Simcheongga*

**Eunhye Jung** pansori singer

**Sukki Yoon** pansori singer

**Taeyong Kim** percussion

In the second half of the concert, Korean tenor **Konu Kim** and Australian soprano **Lauren Fagan**, both from the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme of the Royal Opera House, sing love songs by Grieg, Strauss, Schubert, Lehár, Puccini and Korean composer Juwoon Kim.

AUX

SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER, onstage 8.30pm, £15 +bkg  
Rich Mix, Shoreditch



Psychedelic pansori-rock from Korea crashlands in Shoreditch en route to the Womex festival. **AUX** bring together screaming high-pitched sounds of the piri and taepyeongso (wind instruments) and an intense rock groove of bass, drums, guitar, keyboards and Korean percussion.

They've toured America after winning the Grand Prize of the 21st Century Korean Music Project, playing major venues like the Kennedy Center and Symphony Space. Their secret weapon is extraordinary pansori singer **Eun Kyung Min**, who soars from a growl to a scream, putting the seal on their stunning theatrical performance.

# KINGSTON RUDIESKA

MONDAY 23 OCTOBER, onstage 8.30pm, £15 +bkg  
Borderline, Soho



Seoul may not be the first city you think of when you say 'ska!', but there's a fanatical ska and reggae movement there, and Korea's ska pioneers **Kingston Rudieska** are at the front of the scene.

They combine ska and reggae with a Korean twist — their great heroes are The Skatalites, and the band mix foot-stomping bluebeat instrumentals — fronted by four horns — with warm, soulful vocal numbers. They call their creation 'FeastSka!' and they're thrilled to be bringing it to London for the very first time.



# JIHA PARK: COMMUNION

WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER, onstage 8pm, £14.50  
Kings Place, Kings Cross



*"The highlight was a group led by Jiha Park that seamlessly combined traditional Korean and Western instruments. She sang and performed on piri, saenghwang (a kind of mouth organ) and yanggeum (dulcimer) amidst cross-cultural improvisations by New Zealand vibraphonist John Bell and Korean tenor saxophonist Kim Oki, whose mellow tone recalls Yusef Lateef. It was truly mind-blowing — but don't just take my word for it, track down the quartet's debut album **Communion**"*

New Music Box

**Jiha Park** has matured into one of Korea's great creative artists. First recognised in Britain for her work with 숲[su : m], who were seen at Womad and in K-Music at the Southbank Centre, she plays a range of Korean traditional instruments like the piri (a double-reed bamboo flute).

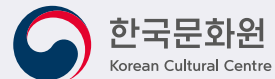
With the group she's assembled to play *Communion*, her work as a composer has really come of age. The Korean Music Awards said 'The greatest virtue of Jiha Park's album is that it has intuitive beauty, and her songs mesmerize with vivid and lyrical melodies. When the intimate and beautiful melodies of vibraphone, saxophone, saenghwang (mouth organ), yanggeum (dulcimer), piri and clarinet delicately unfold and different instruments create a scenery and story to which you find yourself bound forever'.

# KOREA/UK 2017-18



K-Music 2017 is part of the Korea/UK 2017-18 season, presented by the Korean Cultural Centre UK. This is a year-long reciprocal programme with the British Council, bringing UK artists and cultural producers to Korea, forging new partnerships between creative organisations in the UK and Korea and fostering greater cultural collaboration between both.

## KCCUK



Since being opened by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in 2008, under the jurisdiction of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, KCCUK presents year-round exhibition programmes and film festivals as well as traditional and contemporary musical performances. From KCCUK's central London location (just off Trafalgar Square), the institution's dedicated cultural team work to further develop established cultural projects, introduce new opportunities to expand Korean programmes in the UK and to encourage ongoing cultural exchange.

[kccuk.org.uk](http://kccuk.org.uk)



## SERIOUS

Serious produces and directs the annual K-Music festival, and also produces and curates the programming of the EFG London Jazz Festival, The Bath Festival and the contemporary music programme of the Norfolk & Norwich Festival.

For full details of our work, please see [serious.org.uk](http://serious.org.uk)

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MONDAY 2 OCTOBER

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