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Guest Artist Recital: Jin Hi Kim, komungo/ composer

Jin Hi Kim

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Jin Hi Kim, komungo/composer

Hockett Family Recital Hall
Saturday, December 4, 2004
7:30 p.m.

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Jin Hi Kim is highly acclaimed as both an innovative komungo virtuoso and for her cross-cultural compositions. Ms. Kim has brought a deeper appreciation for the historical contributions to world culture by the Koreans. Her work has been presented at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Royal Festival Hall (London), Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), and many significant new music festivals and jazz festivals throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, South America, Russia, Asia, New Zealand and Australia.

Over twenty years Ms. Kim has developed a series of compositions, "Living Tones"—The timbral persona of each tone generated is treated with an abiding respect, as its philosophical mandate from Buddhism, a reverence for the 'life' of a tone, the color and nuance granted each articulation from Korean Shamanism. Ms. Kim has created a wide array of pioneering compositions for the komungo and appeared as a soloist for her compositions with American Composers Orchestra, Boston Modern Orchestra, Kronos Quartet, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Xenakis Ensemble (Holland), Kairos Quartet (Berlin) and others.

Josef Woodard of *The Los Angeles Times* wrote, "This [Living Tones] is new music/world music at its finest, beyond political correctness into the realm of the sublime, where words and cultural postures fall away."

In a decade of creative activity Ms. Kim performed with leading improvisers William Parker, Oliver Lake, Derek Bailey, Eugene Chadbourne, Reggie Workman, Joelle Leandre, Hans Reichel, Elliott Sharp and Henry Kaiser as well as ethnic musicians around the world. She has created the interactive pieces for the world's only electric komungo and MIDI computer system using MAX/MSP.

Peter Watrous of *The New York Times* wrote, "virtuoso, Jin Hi Kim promises thoughtful, shimmering East-West amalgams in combinations that are both new and unlikely to be repeated."

Ms. Kim created cross cultural works leading to a new direction incorporating a profound Asian cultural heritage with a balance of Eastern and Western aesthetics. She won the Wolff Ebermann Prize at International Theater Institute Conference in Germany for her Dong Dong Touching the Moons, a multi-media interactive performance for a lunar ritual in which Western technology meets Eastern mythology. Ms. Kim's Dragon Bond Rite, a cross-cultural mask dance theater, featured artists from Korea, Japan, India, Indonesia, Tuva and the United States, was presented at the Japan Society (New York), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), the John F.

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, DC), and The Festival of Asian Art in Hong Kong.

Joseph McLellan, of *The Washington Post* wrote, "Her unique vision blends science fiction images, state-of-the-art technology, ancient mythology and timeless music and dance traditions. No other artist is doing work quite like this, and she does it with superb style. Kim performs brilliantly and evocatively on an amplified komungo."

Ms. Kim has received the Award for Music Composition for 2001 from the Foundation For Contemporary Performance Art (NYC), which was created by John Cage and Jasper Johns to support innovative creative work in the arts. She is a recipient of the residency at Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, Italy.

Korean National Broadcasting System (KBS-TV) premiered an hour documentary film on Ms. Kim's musical contribution. She has appeared for interviews on WNYC and PBS in New York; CPTV and WNPR in Connecticut; KPFA and KQED in San Francisco; RAI in Rome, Italy; ABC in Sydney, Australia; DRS in Switzerland; KCUR in Montreal; CBC-TV in Vancouver; VPRO in Holland and many others.

In Korea, Ms. Kim trained for many years in the ancient traditional Korean music with National Living Treasures and with Korea's leading ethnomusicologists. She earned a BA degree in Korean Traditional Music at Seoul National University before coming to the United States. Subsequently, she studied with composers John Adams, Lou Harrison, Terry Riley and David Rosenboom, receiving an MFA in electronic music/composition at Mills College, California in 1985.

Currently Ms. Kim is a Freedman artist-in residence at Cornell University. She has given lectures about her compositional concept 'Living Tones' and Korean traditional music at over 100 universities in the USA including Yale University, Wesleyan University, Indiana University, Peabody Conservatory, New England Conservatory, California Institute of the Arts, and University of Michigan.