

## PROGRAM

Jean Ahn (b.1976)

Folksong Revisited for Solo Piano (2005)

*I. Nil-lili*

*II. Song of Monguempo*

*III. Ongheya*

*piano: Su Jung Choi*

Uzong CHOE (b. 1968) *Préludes pour piano, No.15 'vanishing voices' Livre. II (2012)*

*Préludes pour piano No.25 "le miroir dans l'eau" Livre. III (2017)*

*piano: Hyun Jeong Kang*

Juri Seo (b.1981)

Doremi Variations for Solo Piano (2015)

*Var. I Allegro vivace – Largo espressivo*

*Var. II Allegro agitato – Largo espressivo*

*Var. III Largo semplice – Presto – Allegro – Andante grazioso*

*piano: Jee-Hye Lee*

Jae Eun Jung (b.1975)

Things that make me nervous (2021) "World Premiere"

*I. Desperately and Mournfully*

*II Emotionally Confused*

*piano: Mi-Rye Roh*



## PROGRAM NOTE

### **Jean Ahn - Folksong Revisited for Solo Piano (2005)**

Folksong Revisited is a collection of Korean folksong arrangements for piano. This is an ongoing project and each piece was composed for different organizations and competitions. Nil-lili is a joyful song from Kyoungi province. While retaining the original tune in the melody, the piece expands the song by juxtaposing chromatic scales and pentatonic clusters. Mongeumpo is a boating song for sailors, dreaming of their lovers in land. The song has two moods, peaceful and rumbling. I exaggerated the contrast to portray the turbulent emotions of the sailors. Ongheya is an antiphonal song that features a 'call and response' between the leader and the farmers. Throughout the piece, the communal spirit of the farmers is emphasized.

### **Uzong CHOE - Préludes pour piano No.15 'vanishing voices' Livre. II (2012) Préludes pour piano No.25 "le miroir dans l'eau" Livre. III (2017)**

No. 15, vanishing voices

This piece is from Préludes pour piano, Livre II. A delicate Melos\* in a Korean art song and Sijochang\* is unlikely to retain its unique quality even within New traditional music of Korea due to Westernized Korean traditional music. When I compose a piece using western instruments, I consider a distinctive musicality of Korean traditional music such as an elaborate technique dealing with tone color and rhythm and breathing like opening a space-time different from western music.

\*Melos: the succession of musical tones constituting a melody

\*Sijochang: a song based on the traditional three-verse Korean poem

No. 25.

This piece is the first piece from a set of twelve Préludes pour piano, Livre. III. The underlying melody is the tune of a Korean popular song, "Gagora Sampal-seon" (Go, Vanish the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel Away), composed by Si-Chun Park. The underlying melody is barely recognizable because music comes from an imagination that the tune is in a submerged mirror. This piece also contains a reference to Schumann, borrowing a fragment of the melodic contour from "Im wunderschönen Monat Mai"

### **Juri Seo - Doremi Variations for Solo Piano (2015)**

I have always admired Beethoven's humor. I love how he moves from innermost sincerity to the rash jocular—*from innig to bathos*—in a heartbeat. I love the composed false starts, wrong notes, unexpected turns, and awkward counterpoint, all flowering from an inexhaustible reserve of sheer inventiveness. Beethoven's humor is cathartic and transcendent; it implies struggle and irony. Perhaps this humor derives its power from complex musical structure, wherein simple mottos unify vagaries through unceasing change.

My *Doremi Variations* are unabashedly influenced by Beethoven. The simple motto do-re-mi appears and reappears in many different guises throughout the piece. All three variations



move from B major to Db major through rather unusual harmonic progressions while passing seamlessly between *allegro* and *largo*. The first and second variations pass quickly; the third variation alone occupies two-thirds of the entire piece's duration. In it, a *fughetta* leads to a pseudo-folk passage via a pedal point; an epic flourish of harmony ensues, and the variation closes with another *fughetta*, now as a *codetta*. *Doremi Variations* were written in the fall of 2015 for myself :)

### **Jae Eun Jung - Things that make me nervous (2021) World premiere**

Things that happened to me long ago got entangled in complicated ways and became a new cruel one. This is invisible and inaudible but influences all over the matters around me which are not even related to the one, and finally makes me nervous. However, I have such a warm one named love originally from my loved ones and myself. This works hard to overcome all the past and makes me dream of a better day.

## COMPOSERS

### **Dr. Jean Ahn (b.1976)**

Born in Korea, Jean Ahn finished her B.A. and M.M. at Seoul National University and Ph.D. at UC Berkeley. Her creative output includes works ranging from solo instruments to full orchestra, as well as choral, dance and electroacoustic music. Jean was the finalist for 2018 & 2019 Women Composers Commissions by the League of American Orchestras and her music was performed by Oakland Symphony, Memphis Symphony, Berkeley Symphony, Earplay, Left Coast Ensemble, Volti, UC Davis Orchestra and more. She was featured at New Music Miami, New American Music Festival, Women Composers Conference(Australia), Aspen Music Festival, June in Buffalo, the Oregon Bach Festival, the Etchings Festival, IAWM Beijing Congress, SEAMUS and New York City Electronic Music Festival among others. She was the composer-in-residence with SF Choral Artists last season and she is currently working on a multimedia piano piece for New Arts Collaboration. Jean's music often brings Asian traditional elements into western music. Her "Folksong Revisited" for piano and voice/piano collections are the ongoing projects that show her vision to introduce Korean songs and techniques to professional performers in the US. She is a Lecturer at UC Berkeley, director of Ensemble ARI and Music Director at CHIM Studio. [www.jeanahn.com](http://www.jeanahn.com)

### **Uzong CHOE (b.1968)**

Uzong Choe studied composition and music theory at Seoul National University (with Byung-Dong Paik and Sukhi Kang), at the Mozarteum in Salzburg (with Bogusław Schaeffer and Franz Zaunschirm) and at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris (with Emmanuel Nunes). Choe has worked with director Yoon-Taek Lee and his street theater troupe Yon-Hee Dan. He was the artistic director of Ensemble TIMF (ensemble in residence of the Tongyeong International Music Festival) and is a professor of composition at Seoul National University.

Uzong Choe's compositions incorporate a vast range of musical styles and aesthetics - from early music to popular music. His recent works, in particular, reflect his research of European



early music to popular music. His recent works, in particular, reflect his research of European polyphony and traditional Korean music, and express his strong interest in music theatre. He has written and directed music theatre productions such as *Rose, Francisca* based on 'Hebrew Melodies' by Lord Byron and *The Chorus: Oedipus*, and adapted Christoph Willibald Gluck's *Echo et Narcisse* for a multi-media performance.

In addition, he composed the musical theater *Happy Prince*, based on a story by Oscar Wilde, and *Gwangju*, as well as several operas including *Love Letter*, *As the moon flowing on the water*, and *1945*.

From his studies on the innovation of new music theater and opera based on traditional Korean Pansori, he wrote and directed *Birth*, and composed a traditional Korean popular music theater piece *Jeok-Ro (Song of Dewdrops)* in the same vein. Pursuing this idea even further, he wrote the song cycle *Chu-Seon (Autumn Fan)* for traditional Korean Jung-ga vocalist and piano.

### **Dr. Juri Seo (b.1981)**

Juri Seo (b. 1981) is a composer and pianist based in Princeton, New Jersey. She seeks to write music that encompasses extreme contrast through compositions that are unified and fluid, yet complex. She merges many of the fascinating aspects of music from the past century—in particular its expanded timbral palette and unorthodox approach to structure—with a deep love of functional tonality, counterpoint, and classical form. With its fast-changing tempi and dynamics, her music explores the serious and the humorous, the lyrical and the violent, the tranquil and the obsessive. She hopes to create music that loves, that makes a positive change in the world—however small—through the people who are willing to listen.

Her composition honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Koussevitzky Commission from the Library of Congress, a Goddard Lieberman Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship, Copland House Residency Award, and the Otto Eckstein Fellowship from Tanglewood. She has received commissions from Fromm Foundation, Barlow Endowment, Tanglewood Music Center, the 21st Century Piano Commission Competition from the University of Illinois, and the Renée B. Fisher Piano Competition. Her debut album "Mostly Piano" was released by Innova Recordings in 2017.

She holds a D.M.A. (Dissertation: Jonathan Harvey's String Quartets, 2013) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she studied with Reynold Tharp. She has also attended the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (Rome, corsi di perfezionamento with Ivan Fedele) and Yonsei University (Seoul, B.M.). Since 2009, she has been a composition fellow at the Tanglewood, Bang on a Can, and SoundSCAPE festivals, the Wellesley Composers Conference, and the Atlantic Center for the Arts. She is Associate Professor of Music at Princeton University.

Juri lives in Lawrenceville, just outside of Princeton, with her husband, percussionist Mark Eichenberger and a little mutt named Roman.  
For more information, visit [www.juriseomusic.com](http://www.juriseomusic.com).  
Email: [juri@princeton.edu](mailto:juri@princeton.edu)



### **Dr. Jae Eun Jung (b.1975)**

JAE EUN JUNG received her BA and MA in music theory at Ewha W. University in Korea and a MM in composition at San Diego State University and DMA in composition at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. She was the Finalist of the 2012 Boston New Music Initiative Commissioning Competition, the Winner of the 2011 International Alliance for Women in Music PazyLu Prize, Finalist of the 2008/09 Renée B. Fisher Composer Awards. In addition, she was a residence composer at Isang Yun Haus in Berlin, Germany in 2018. She has composed a variety of genres of music such as chamber music, orchestral music, mixed media, opera, musical, choir, and songs and has actively participated in various musical venues in the US, Europe and Asia including SCI Conferences, MGMC, NEON, Denison Tutti Festival, New Music Forum, New Music Festival X, Contemporary Triptych Concert, Midwest Composers Forum in the US, No Boundary sponsored by the Korea Creative Contents Agency, Opera Nine Tales, Korean Music Expo by the Korean Composers Association in Korea, Korean Cultural Center Concert in Hongkong, Tineri compozitori din Coreea de Sud in Romania, among others. She taught at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, USA as an Adjunct Professor and currently teaches at Gachoen University in Korea.

## PERFORMERS

### **Su Jung Choi**

- Graduated from Kyungwon University (currently Gachon University) School of Music in Piano
- Completed Luebeck, Hamburg National University of Music Diplom
- Graduated from Biennio, the highest honor in piano performance in National Conservatory of Music in Bologna, Italy
- Completed the Clavicembalo course at the National Conservatory of Music in Bologna, Italy
- Completed the Certificated Course for the Opera Coach and Vocal Coach course (CUBEC) in Vignola, Italy
- Music Director of PROBE OHN, Arts Research Society
- Member of The Pianissimo- The Musical Arts Association, Piano Teaching Method Performance Association
- Professor of Music Department at Yewon Arts University

### **Dr. Hyun Jeong Kang**

A native of South Korea, pianist Hyun Jeong Kang, maintains an active profile across the United States and abroad as a solo recitalist, chamber musician, and collaborative pianist. Kang received a doctoral degree in piano performance from Florida State University under the tutelage of Ian Hobson, and a master's degree in piano performance from the University of Michigan under the tutelage of Logan Skelton. While pursuing her graduate studies, she received a full-tuition scholarship as a research assistant, Mildred Tuttle scholarship, and a merit-based scholarship. Kang holds a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Ewha Womans University, where she studied with Myoung Seon Kye. Her additional studies and masterclasses of Jon Kimura Parker, Ellen Mack, Bruce Brubaker, Vadim Suchanov, and Jean-Pierre Ferey among many others.

She taught in the Piano Practicum Program at Florida State University as a piano instructor until 2018. She served as an assistant director of the Puerto Rico International Piano Festival in 2018.



## **Jee-Hye Lee**

- Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, The Korean National University of Arts School of Music
- Diplom of Artist, Robert Schumann University of Music Duesseldorf (Germany) 1 year completion
- Diplom of Artist, Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media (Germany)
- Konzertreife Aufbau Studium, Konzertexamen from University of Music Saar (Germany)
- Instructor of Piano Performance at the Sunhwa Arts High School, Incheon Arts High School Secondary Arts Gifted Education

## **Mi-Rye Roh**

Pianist Mi-Rye Roh is currently teaching at DukWon Arts High School, Seoul Korea. She is also a member of a performing group called 'Piano Da Camera'. Mi-Rye passed preliminary exam at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in DMA in piano performance where she received full scholarship and worked as an accompanying assistant. She received Master of Music from Indiana University in piano performance with full scholarship and Teaching Assistantship. She graduated Oberlin College Conservatory in bachelor's degree in piano performance with scholarship. She graduated Professional Children's School, NY and pre-college division at Mannes College Conservatory both in honors.

Mi-Rye made her debut concert in 1994 in Merkin Concert Hall, NY and performed worldwide since then. She participated in many music camp including Meranofest in Italy, Toulous music camp in France, music camp in Mannheim University in Germany and music camp in Lithuania. She has performed in master classes held by world renowned pianist Yevgeni Malinin, Lenonard Hokanson and many others. She has also performed in the final stage of Metropolitan Opera Competition. Mi-Rye was a finalist in Oberlin Piano Competition. She is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, National Music Honor Society.

In Korea, Mi-Rye has performed not only solo recitals but also many ensemble concerts with Euterpe Woodwind quintet and in UIUC alumni concert, also in Indiana University alumni concert. She was a guest pianist of Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra under Maestro Myung Whun Chung and she also participated in Ars Nova directed by a composer Unsuk Chin.

Mi-Rye studied with Lev Natochenny, Monique Duphil, Edward Auer, and Ian Hobson.





THE PIANISSIMO  
음악예술학회  
The Musical Arts Association

The Pianissimo-The Musical Arts Association founded in the US in 2005 was established in Korea 2011.

The Association consists members who are competent domestic and international artists, in academic research and in performance arts in various areas of music. The Association aims to keep current with global trends in music through research, performance activities and international exchange in all areas of music. Further, the Association makes contributions to humanity by vitalizing and developing musical culture.

The Pianissimo-The Musical Arts Association shares activities with the community by publishing academic journals, hosting academic conferences, providing opportunities for lectures and master classes, hosting concerts, commissioning new works, and conducting music research projects.



World Piano Teachers Association USA-Missouri