
 한국문화원 Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles		Press Release			
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ARI PROJECT: Performing Arts
**‘African-Korean Autumn Dance & Music Concert:
Heart of the Community’**



- ▶ Title : 「2019 ARI Project」 African-Korean Autumn Dance & Music Concert: Heart of the Community
- ▶ Date: Friday, November 15, 2019 at 7:30pm
- ▶ Place: Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles 3rd Fl. Ari Hall
- ▶ Presenters : Korean Cultural Center, LA (KCCLA), Ko’s Korean Traditional Dance Institute
- ▶ Online Reservation : www.kccla.org
- ▶ For more Info: hannah@kccla.org or 323-936-3015 Hannah Cho

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA) and Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Institute present the **“African-Korean Autumn Dance & Music Concert: Heart of the Community”** on Friday, November 15, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. on the 3rd floor of the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles, Ari Hall.

This cross-cultural dance & music concert features dynamic dance, drumming and mask dance traditions of Korea and Yoruba Africa. “Heart of the Community” weaves dreams, stories and offerings from both African and Korean communities for harmony, peace, abundance and friendship.

Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Company will showcase colorful and highly stylized Korean dances such as Chukwonmu, Sunbi Chum, Gyobang Salpuri and Gyobang Janggo Chum. A special guest drummer Juhee Kim from Korea joins LA's Samulnori Team Woon Woo Poong Rae to perform Samdo Samulnori (rhythms from three provinces). Ms. Kim has apprenticed under the legendary master drummer Kim Duk Soo and has been teaching with the SamulNori Hanullim for more than 2 decades.

A scene from the Bongsan Talchum mask dance originating in the Hwanghae Province, North Korea, will also be performed. Additional guests include Pansori singer Warren Kim who will share an excerpt from Heungboga. Harvard Westlake High School students will open the concert with Nanta drumming.

Master Drummer Najite Agindotan's family of drummers will begin with a traditional Yoruba drum call Ipe Ilu, bless the space with a live libation Awúre, then call on two master dancers Danniella Kyle and Nagodé Simpson to perform the traditional Yoruba mask dance Gelede.

Yoruba people are a large ethno-linguistic group in Western Nigeria, Togo & Benin Republic. They are one of the largest 3 major tribes that make up approximately 300 tribes in Nigeria. Traditionally a matriarchal society, Yoruba Gelede Masquerade celebrates all Mothers, including female ancestors, deities and elderly women of the community. Gelede Masquerade is a community spectacle that helps to bring goodness to all peoples.

The concert will culminate in a joint-performance by both Korean and Yoruba dancers and drummers in a piece entitled “E Se (Gomapseumnida)” which literally means THANK YOU – a perfect way to share the spirit of generosity and gratitude in time for the Thanksgiving holiday around the corner.

Wijin Park, director of KCCLA says, “Los Angeles ranks as the number one racially and ethnically diverse city in the United States. Thus, it’s truly a pleasure to host a cultural exchange concert with diverse communities of Los Angeles through the Ari Project. We hope these concerts will serve as a culturally enriching experience that will help bridge all communities together. With the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles reaching its 40th anniversary in 2020, we are excited to announce that our cultural exchange programs will be expanded to highlight a whole spectrum of unique characteristics and beauty of diverse groups in Los Angeles.”

The performance is free but phone or online reservation is required prior to the performance. www.kccla.org, 323-936-3015

**This performance is presented as a part of the Korean Cultural Center’s ARI PROJECT Season: Performing arts series, which features a rich program of various performing arts programs including Korean traditional music and dance, modern fusion world music, Jazz, royal court tea ceremonies, puppet shows as well as theater.*

-Program Description-



MC: Cindy Min

Opening Remarks: Metebrafor Agindotan

1. Nanta

Claire Park, Haruka Endo, Ashley Hahn, Sasha Lee, Lola Kim, Noel Kim, Megan Kim
(Harvard Westlake School Students Team)

2. Ipe Ilu

Najite Agindotan, Metebrafor Agindotan, Onome Agindotan, Kiemute Agindotan

3. Chukwonmu

Elaine Lee, Kelly Chang, Soo Jin Lee, Dana Min, Victoria Lee

4. Sunbi Chum

Veronica Lee, Mi Cha O, Myong H. Kang

5. Awúre

Najite Agindotan

6. Swallow's Journey, an excerpt from Heungboga

Warren Kim (Sori/Woori Sori)

7. Traditional Korean Mask Dance

Nathan Min, James Hong, Junsoo Ahn

8. Yoruba African Mask Dance (Gelede Masquerade)

Najite Agindotan, Metebrafor Agindotan, Onome Agindotan, Kiemute Agindotan,
Danniella Kyle, Nagodé Simpson

9. Samdo Samulnori

Suehee Ko, Juhee Kim, Helen Choi, Hang Bang, Hyewon Jang

10. Gyobang Salpuri

Gemma Hong, Susie Hwang, Pok Sun Cho, Grace Lee

11. Gyobang Janggo Chum

Kelly Chang, Soo Jin Lee, Elaine Lee

12. Finale 'E se(Thank You)'

Noah Min, Najite Agindotan, Metebrafor Agindotan, Onome Agindotan, Kiemute
Agindotan, Danniella Kyle, Nagodé Simpson, Woon Woo Poong Rae Samulnori

** The program is subject to change without notice.*

** This performance is presented as a part of the Korean Cultural Center's 2019 ARI PROJECT Season 6: Performing arts series, which features a rich program of various performing arts programs including Korean traditional music and dance, modern fusion world music, jazz, musical as well as theater.*

Sue Hee Ko, Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Institute

Sue Hee Ko is a professional dancer and choreographer specializing in traditional Korean dance, drumming and mask performances. She is the founder and director of Ko's Korean Traditional Dance Institute & Dance Company in Los Angeles, CA where she has been offering a comprehensive Korean dance and drumming curriculum to students ages three and up since 1988. Ko has studied under renowned Korean folk artists in South Korea and performed before various distinguished audiences. In 2013, she was recognized from the government of Korea as one highly skilled in her field, designating her as a member of National Important Intangible Cultural Property No. 92, a highly regarded recognition among Korean cultural organizations. She is actively involved in the community and chairs many cultural performance organizations in the United States such as the Gyobang Dance Preservation Society of Los Angeles (see the full list below). Ms. Ko provides Korean folk dance and music instruction to students, cultivating appreciation for multiculturalism within LAUSD schools through such programs as Beyond the Bell afterschool program and numerous in-class teaching. In recent years, Ko's Korean Dance Company went on tour with pop-star, Shakira, playing the traditional Korean Three-Headed Drum Dance for the song "Did It Again". Performance highlights include appearances in the Dancing with The Stars (CBS Studios LA), Saturday Night Live (NBC Studio NY), XFactor (London, UK), Bambi Awards (Potsdam, Germany), and MTV Music Awards (Berlin, Germany).

Warren Kim (Woori Sori)

Woori Sori (Our Voice) has been a platform for providing quality Korean traditional sound of pansori and namdo-minyo in southern California. Wonil Kim, the founder and instructor, is the first performer to master the complete epic of Heung-bo-ga in the states and is preparing to master the next epic, Soo-jung-ga. Woori Sori held a total of seven free annual training program of namdo-minyo with more than 300 students; currently, 20 apprentices have been pursuing to master the pansori epic for the last 5 years. To expand on a global scale, Woori Sori is working on the translation of pansori epics.

Najite Agindotan (Olokun Cultural Group)

Son of an Urhobo tribal chieftain and a godson of the King of Afro Beat Fela Kuti, Najite Agindotan is a master percussionist who, from a very young age, traveled with the Urhobo cultural music troupe under his father's direction. They traveled throughout West Africa and performed at national festivals in their native Nigeria. A fervent participant, Najite devoted himself to theatre performance, traditional dancing and drumming. During his time in Los Angeles he has received several prestigious awards, including a Congressional Award for Cultural Excellence by Representative Diane Watson, and grants from the California Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and the University of California. He also received a NAACP Image Award as Best Musical Director for the stage play "Omalingwo". Najite's performance group is called Olokun Cultural Group (Olokun means the keeper of the ocean). In the music community worldwide, Najite is known as the god son of Fela Kuti and longtime collaborator of the Afro Beat.

/The End/