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2017 ARI PROJECT: Performing Arts The Friendship Concert "Unity in Diversity"

In remembrance of 1992 Los Angeles Riots



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- ▶ Title : 2017 ARI PROJECT: Performing Arts
The Friendship Concert "Unity in Diversity"
 - ▶ Date: Friday, April 28, 2017 at 7:30pm
 - ▶ Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles 3rd Fl. Ari Hall
 - ▶ Presenters : Vita Dance Academy, Korean Cultural Center, LA
 - ▶ Online Reservation : www.kccla.org
 - ▶ For more Info: tammy@kccla.org or 323-936-3015 Tammy Chung
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The Korean Cultural Center, LA proudly presents the 4th season of the **2017 ARI PROJECT: Performing Arts Series**. Starting this April with a rich program, the series will include various genres of performing arts including Korean traditional music and dance, modern fusion world music, Jazz, royal court tea ceremonies, puppet shows as well as theater.

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA) and Artists' Platform (TAP) will present the first performance of this season, **The Friendship Concert "Unity in Diversity"**, on Friday, April 28, 2017 at 7:30pm on the 3rd floor of Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles in the Ari Hall.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest. The acquittal of four police officers (who were tried for the brutal beating of Rodney King Junior) catapulted the seemingly harmonious community into a city of turmoil. Amidst the rooting, vandalizing and burning of South Central Los Angeles which caused 55 deaths, 2,000+ injuries and over 1 billion in property damage, the community realized how volatile we are to the racial divisions that can tragically touch the lives of everyone. **The Artists' Platform(TAP)** seeks to empower all artists through providing a platform for performance and expression. The Friendship Concert is to remember the LA Riots through the promotions of tolerance, diversity, and love.

Participating artists include Juli Kim (*Artistic Director TAP*), Julia Schafer, Paco Arroyo, Yolanda Arroyo, Pat Taylor, James Mahkween, Yoonsuk Choe, Hyunjung Melody Shim, Cehleste Lanuza, and Yuanyuan Jia, and they are all joining together in LA for this special performance.

This program includes "Maya Angelou Suite," "Salpuri," "Truth-Blith," "Dream Vision," "Ah-Jaeng Improvisational," "City Called Heaven", "Joy", "Korean Ensemble-Sounds of Wind (Indian Flute) - Harmonica Fantasia -Love Poem", "Esencia Flamenca", and "Five Drum Dance".

**This performance is presented as a part of the Korean Cultural Center's 2017 ARI PROJECT Season 4: 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-

1. MAYA ANGELOU SUITE

Dancers: Ajah Mumhammad, LaRonica Southerland, Chatiera Ray, LaTrice Postell, Shianne Winston / Choreographer: James Mahkween

This piece is a tribute to Maya Angelou who was an African American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist. The Choreographer, James Mahkween, eloquently tells the struggle and victory of this magnificent woman.

2. SALPURI

Dancer: Juli Kim

Juli Kim presents her very own choreography, Salpuri ("Sal":bad spirit "puri": unwind) This traditional Korean dance listed as a UNESCO intangible Heritage.

The dance expresses the sorrow of human relationships, and the angst that comes from unsatisfied desire. It is the most challenging form of Korean Classical dance, and it depicts a traditional Korean woman of an ancient era. She moves with deep inhales and exhales of breath, beginning slowly and then gaining speed as her emotions rise, creating a mesmerizing intensity.

The essence of Korean dance expresses life's heavier aspects with an inner lightness, and Korean dancers move continuously, as the performances are meant to mirror the eternally revolving elements of darkness and light, yin and yang. Performers lead each step with the heel, holding the body in check, creating a thousand fluid lines in their circular paths and turns.

3. TRUTH-BLITH

Dancer: Julia Schaffer, Yuanyuan Jia

This collaborative piece titled "Truth-Blithe" is a contemporary modern dance that reflects the importance of inclusion, unity, and acceptance in a community. This segment is followed by the trendy K-POP style piece depicting prevailing strength of the new generation.

4. DREAM VISION

Trio - Duet

Dancers: Celeste Lanuza William Clayton and Carly Cannata

Singer/Spoken Artist: Marcos Hernandez

This dance is about life of Jose Limón, a legendary dance figure. His assimilation into the United States, and his hardship as he tries to overcome the challenges of living as an undocumented Mexican in Los Angeles in the early 1900s is poetically expressed. The music and dance are original work of Celeste Lanuza.

5. AH-JAENG IMPROVISATIONAL

Dancer: Juli Kim / Choreographer: Park Keum Suel

Accompanied by ajaeng- Korean string instrument, this improvisational piece is originated by a legend, Park Keum Suel.

The piece is in a free style and can be described as "empty hand Salpuri" (Salpuri without the silk scarf)

6. CITY CALLED HEAVEN

Dancers: Keishas Clark-Booth, Albertossy Espinoza, James Mahkween, Ilze Mattson, Bridget Murano, Sarah Platte, Latrice Postell, Jason Poullard, Stacey Strickland, Sharif Washington Rhone / Choreographer: Pat Taylor

The music is a traditional Negro Spiritual (in this recording performed by Soulful Symphony) and the dance - a series solos, duets and trios - is a reflection on hope, promise and community.

7. JOY

Dancer: Juli Kim / Accompanied by Korean ensemble

"Joy" is a variation of "Jaeng gang Choom" and is executed with bells tied around the dancer's wrists. This poetic piece is about the celebration and the joy of youth. Originated by one of the best-known choreographers of Korea, Choi Seung Hee, and popularized in North Korea, the dance originally tells the story of vibrant women of Hwang Hae Island who in efforts to dominate and mesmerize the audience wore bells on their wrists or feet while clad in lovely, colorful costumes.

8. KOREAN ENSEMBLE-Sounds of Wind (Indian Flute) - Harmonica Fantasia -Love Poem

Wind: Yoonsuk Choe / Voice: Hyunjung Melody Shim

The mesmerizing piece performed on Harmonica and Indian flute is followed by Sarang-ga. The lyric in this most popular aria from the beloved classical folktale, Chunhyang, is purest form in the expression of ardent love. (equivalents of Romeo and Juliet)

9. ESENCIA FLAMENCA

Artists: Paco & Yolanda

This Soleares & Tarantos is a dance filled with energy. Soleares is often referred to as the mother of all Flamenco because so many other important forms are derived from it. Its slow rhythm comes from the South Spain and La Union.

10. FIVE DRUM DANCE

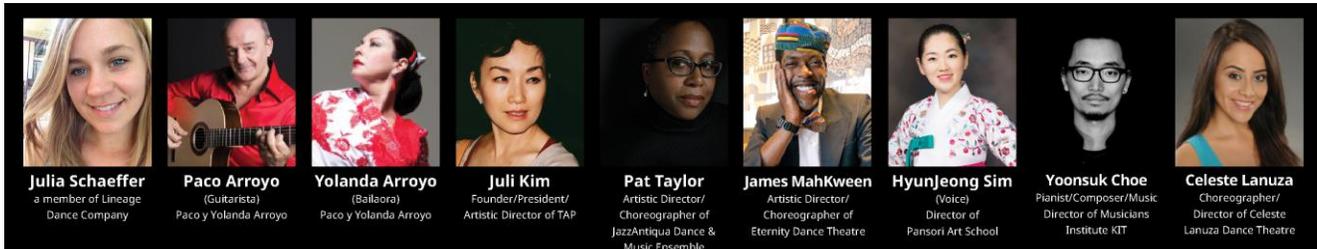
Dancer: Juli Kim

Drums play an important part in traditional Korean music, ranging from folk, temple and court music. The Five drum dance is presented mostly as a large ensemble piece. Tonight's solo presentation is executed acapella with a touch of western influence.

The Artists' Platform(TAP)

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-ARTISTS-



JULIA SCHAFER

Julia Schaeffer began dancing ballet at the age of 12. She was introduced to contemporary, jazz, modern and trained as a BFA Dance Major at Chapman University. Presently, she is dancing with Lineage Dance Company and teaching at Center Stage Dance Studio and Newport Dance Studio

PACO ARROYO

Paco began playing guitar at the age of 17. He comes from a family of musicians, poets and artists. He worked in flamenco “tablaos” such as El Cordobés and Los Tarantos, alongside popular artists within the genre. Artists he was worked with include: Camarón de la Isla, Tomatito Manzanitas, Juanito Villar and Los Farrucos.

YOLANDA ARROYO

Yolanda began flamenco dancing at the young age of 3. By the age of 9 she began working in theatres, “peñas”, and “tablaos”. While still in Spain she performed at the Tablao El Cordobés, Las Cuevas, and Los Tarantos; with artists such as Enrique el Extremeño, Juan Manuel Canizares, Maruja Garrido, Manuela Carrasco, Vicente Gelo, La familia Rubichi, Camarón de la Isla, Pastora, and Jose Galván.

JULI KIM

Juli Kim performed in numerous venues mainly devoting her work to spreading the awareness of Korean culture to the younger generation and to non-Korean ethnic groups. She has taught Korean Dance classes to La Canada Preparatory School and Flintridge Preparatory School among many others. She also collaborated with Dancecorp, Lulla Washington Dance Theatre, The Latino Dance Project and other dance companies to promote diversity. Her most notable work was the production of Friendship Concert in memory of the LA Riot. The event raised scholarship money for the inner-city children. Juli Kim holds a Master’s Degree in Piano Performance from USC.

PAT TAYLOR

Pat Taylor is the artistic director/choreographer of JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble. She is the recipient of several awards including a Brody Arts Fund Choreography Fellowship and grants from Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles Department of Cultural

Affairs, Doolittle Foundation and the Center for Cultural Innovation. She was a finalist in the "Dance Under the Stars" Choreography Festival and the Leo's Choreography Competition (Jazz Dance World Congress). Taylor teaches and choreographs across the United States and internationally --- melding her background in Katherine Dunham and Lester Horton techniques, West African, American vernacular and classic jazz dance.

JAMES MAHKWEEN

James MahKween is from Atlanta, GA. He graduated with a BFA in Musical Theater from American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA). After graduating, MahKween has been setting and reaching goals. He has performed with Lula Washington Dance Theatre, JazzAntiqua, and Kouman Kele African Dance and Drum Company, and BrockusRed . Recently, he has been seen at The Saban Theatre Performing for NAACP THEATRE AWARDS. His choreography has been shown at NAACP ACT-SO 2014 & 2015, Highways Performance Space, DANCESCAPE, DanceSpot LA, Tri-Art Festival, Sol-Cal Dance Invitational, and HHII Dance Festival.

YOONSUK CHOE

An introvert since early age, Choe found himself spending more time at his piano than with children his age. His first encounter with the magical sound of harmonica was during his mandatory service in the army. Since then, sharing his love for harmonica, Indian flute and piano has been his passion and joy.

HYUNJUNG MELODY SHIM

Melody shim is a Pansori diva. Rooted on Korean classical[traditional] singer. Melody has been a singer in Haemil (2013-2015), an LA-based cross-over Korean music group, In the meanwhile, she gained a global understanding of singing as a stage art by performing around the world including Asia, china and North America. a rhythmic performance group that performed more than 1,000 times to show Korean-style rhythm and song to worldwide audience. Having 3 years of specialized training in sing through Gugak National Arts High School, she obtained a BA in singer in Korean Literature from Chungang University in South Korea.

CELESTE LANUZA

Celeste Lanuza is producer/director of both music and dance theatre productions. She has toured internationally as a singer, dancer, and actress. Her original compositions and choreographic works continue to inspire new ideas and empower communities by enticing audiences to overcome social barriers. She holds an MFA in Choreography from UCI and BFA in Dance and Musical Theater from the University of the Arts.

YUANYUAN JIA

Yuanyuan Jia is a hip-hop dancer from China. During her freshman year majoring psychology, she fell in love with dance. Since then, all her free time was devoted to her new passion. She participated in workshops in Beijing, Shanghai and eventually landed a job as a dance teacher in her home town Zhenjiang. Currently, she is working towards attaining Master's Degree in Management from Claremont Graduate University, Sotheby's Institute of Art.