
 <b>한국문화원</b> Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles		<b>Press Release</b>		
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## 2020 KCCLA 40th Anniversary Concert Series 1 : World Music group “Black String”



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- ▶ Title : 2020 KCCLA 40th Anniversary Concert Series 1 :  
World Music group “Black String”
  - ▶ Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7:30pm
  - ▶ Place: Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles 3rd Fl. Ari Hall
  - ▶ Presenters : Korean Cultural Center, LA (KCCLA), Korean Foundation  
for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE), & SORI
  - ▶ Online Reservation : [www.kccla.org](http://www.kccla.org)
  - ▶ For more Info: hannah@kccla.org or 323-936-3015 Hannah Cho
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**The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (Wijin Park, Director) with Corporation Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE)** will present a special concert <KARMA> with “Black String” on Thursday, February 27th, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. on

the 3rd floor of the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles, Ari Hall.

The tour will be selected as the "2020 Traveling Korean Art" project by Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE) and co-hosted by Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles and the North American tour agency SORI, and will tour five cities including LA, San Diego, Santa Barbara, San Jose and Berkeley.

**Tour Schedule and Link:**

[2/26/2020 @ ArtPower at UCSD \(San Diego, CA\)](#)

[2/27/2020 @ Korean Cultural Center LA \(Los Angeles, CA\)](#)

[2/28/2020 @ MultiCultural Center at UCSB \(Santa Barbara, CA\)](#)

[2/29/2020 @ San Jose Jazz Winter Fest \(San Jose, CA\)](#)

[3/01/2020 @ Freight & Salvage \(Berkeley, CA\)](#)

## **Black String**

Borderless Contemporary Music from Korea

**2018 Songlines Music Awards Winner: Asia & South Pacific**

**2017 KOREAN MUSIC AWARD WINNER: Best Jazz and Crossover Performance**

**2016 WOMEX Official Showcase Group**

“Towering, Hypnotic, Psychedelic Korean Postrock Majesty”

- New York Music Daily

“Black String make you wonder how rock coped for 65 years without the geomungo.” - Mojo

“This exciting quartet leaves beaten tracks, inventing an original musical language and crossing stylistic and temporal boundaries with ease.” - Le Monde

Black String seeks a new sound that can incorporate a variety of expressions in traditional music, as well as harmonize with other expression in world music. This new sound will be interpreted by artists who embrace traditional music as well as jazz, reflecting both composed and improvised creations. The group features Yoon

Jeong Heo (geomungo), Jean Oh (electric guitar), Aram Lee (daegeum, yanggeum) and Min Wang Hwang (ajaeng, janggu), Black String especially focuses on improvisation as an important aspect of Korean traditional music and attempts to create a unique language through Asian intuition and musical idiom.

The group was founded in 2011 as part of government sponsored Korea-UK cultural exchange program titled "UK Connection." Black String has performed at WOMEX 2016, London Jazz Festival, Winter Jazzfest, and many more world renowned festivals and venues. As the band performs, amplified bursts of sound of the geomungo (6-stringed zither) and Korean bamboo flutes, the fierce quake of Korean traditional percussion, and unpredictable melody of jazz guitar will grasp all your senses.

Yoon Jeong Heo / geomungo

Jean Oh / guitar, electronics

Aram Lee / daegeum, yanggeum, Tungso, danso, taepyeongso

Min Wang Hwang / voice, janggu, percussion, taepyeongso



## **South Korean Quartet Black String Return With Second Studio Album Karma on ACT Records**

“One of the most exciting groups in South Korea today” – **Songlines**



Black String  
Karma

ACT



**Album release Date: 27th September 2019**

Critically-acclaimed genre-blurring quartet Black String, led by geomungo (traditional Korean zither) player Yoon Jeong Heo, will release their second studio album Karma, on ACT Records on 27th September. Drawing on stylistic influences including traditional music from their heritage, jazz, blues, rock, and electronica, the album sees this in-demand group traversing genres effortlessly while merging improvisation and traditional forms.

Black String’s debut album Mask Dance (2017) was praised by audiences and critics alike and resulted in the group being honoured with the prestigious ‘Asia and South Pacific Award’ at the 2018 Songlines Awards. The interplay of the four band members – Yoon Jeong Heo on the geomungo, guitarist Jean Oh, daegeum and yanggeum flutes player Aram Lee, and Janggu percussionist/singer Min Wang Hwang – has now deepened through extensive touring over the past two years, which can be heard throughout this forthcoming record.

Karma fuses the typical melody lines of classical Korean music and the sound of traditional instruments with current styles and methods. The opening track “Sureña” features a blues-based groove underlaying the ethereal theme, with different

instruments in improvised solos reminiscent of jazz. There are powerful moments, for example Min Wang Hwang's traditional Korean shamanic singing on "Exhale-Puri", rising to a shout – accompanied by the band playing swelling rock rhythms. "Blue Shade", the final piece on the album, delves into Far Eastern prog rock territory. Guitarist Nguyễn Lê, known for his take on Vietnamese folk music fused with jazz and rock, also appears as a guest on two of the tracks.

For Black String, Karma represents a modern, global approach to music with no borders, as well as strong and deep roots.

Yoon Jeong Heo / geomungo

Jean Oh / guitar, electronics, beat mixing (on2)

Aram Lee / daegeum, yanggeum, Tungso, danso, taepyeongso

Min Wang Hwang / voice, janggu, percussion, taepyeongso

#### **Track Listing:**

- 1 Sureña
- 2 Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- 3 Elevation of Light
- 4 Song of the Sea
- 5 Exit Music (For A Film)
- 6 Exhale-Puri
- 7 Karma
- 8 Beating Road
- 9 Blue Shade

All music composed by Yoon Jeong Heo & Black String, except "Exit Music (For A Film)" composed by Radiohead (Thomas Yorke, Jonathan & Colin Greenwood, Philip Selway and Edward O'Brien). Guitar solo on "Blue Shade" inspired by the Ornette Coleman composition "Lonely Woman".

*\*\* Presenters only: To request the full album audio files, please email your request to Shawn Choi at [shawn@sori.nyc](mailto:shawn@sori.nyc)*

## **1st album <Mask Dance> ACT - 2016. 10. 14.**

What Black String have achieved remarkably on this album is to extend the tonal palette of the traditional instruments, the range of colours and timbres is quite mesmerising. In “Flowing Floating” - inspired by Esbj\*rn Svensson Trio’s version of “The Face Of Love” - Heo creates a drone sound by using the combination of bow and loop pedal. In “Mask Dance”, Lee experiments with unvoiced breath on the daegeum, producing a sound which is both contemporary and visceral. Jean Oh brings a whole range of guitar-sourced sounds and pure electronic sounds, notably atmospheric popping sounds like falling raindrops at the start and the conclusion of “Growth Ring.” Heo uses the bow again towards the end of “Strangeness Moon” to create unforgettable other-worldly harmonics on the borders of spiritual silence.

Black String  
Mask Dance

ACT



## **BAND BIOS**

### ***Yoon Jeong Heo***

Virtuoso of Geomungo; Korean Traditional Zither

“This was music fully of the 21st century, in all its global, postmodernist glory.”

- The Washington Post

A virtuoso of Korean traditional music, Yoon Jeong Heo is a lively and insightful Geomun-go. Her talents cut across various musical genres, expanding the possibilities of Geomun-go and Korean music by bringing together different genres ranging from traditional, improvisational and contemporary music. Yoon Jeong Heo has held her 30 times solo recitals from 1998 and performed numerous performances in Korea, Germany, France, UK, USA, and many other countries. Yoon Jeong Heo broaden her

musical spectrum by collaborating prominent and proved her artistry on many performances and festivals. Especially at the Rudolstadt World Music Festival in Germany, WOMEX opening concert in Copenhagen, WOMAD in UK, NZ, AUS, UN present telematic concert 'Resonations', etc. Yoon Jeong Heo spent six months in New York as a resident artist for the Asian Cultural Council New York for 2007/2008.

### ***Jean Oh***

Korean Guitar Player, Improviser, Music Producer

2008: After release of Jean Oh's Debut album 'Invisible Worth' (with George Garzone, John Lockwood, Jeff Hirshfield). He began to play in improvisational music scene.

2011: A project band's album 'Pan-Geun Lee Project - A Rhapsody in Cold Age' won the Korean Music Award for the best jazz performance album. Pan-Geun Lee is a legend composer in Korea who tried to mix Korean Folk and Traditional music's Character with Jazz

2013: A full improvised album with a drummer Check Kim, 'Discovering Myself' was nominated Korean Music Awards for the best jazz performance album

2015: Also fully improvised album 'Oblivion' with Chang-Hyun Kim and Ha-Youn Lee won the Korean Music Award for the best jazz performance album

Jean Oh started music with jazz, but, developing his own voice as an artist. Jean is trying to find his own voice as artist who express his Yesterday, today, and tomorrow in the society he belongs in.

Nowadays, he is playing with the band 'Black string' mostly in Europe and doing his improvisation music, folk music, electronic music and other collaborations with Korean traditional music.

### ***Aram Lee***

Daegeum and Yanggeum player Aram Lee based his play on Korean traditional music. He also has a talent for composing and is able to cover wide ranges of music from traditional music to modern. Now he performs as a member of 'Black String' that plays improvised music based on traditional sound. He is also a leader of 'NaMu', Korean traditional music ensemble since 2015.

## ***Min Wang Hwang***

Min Wang Hwang graduated with a master's degree from the Korea National University of Arts. He is intended an important intangible cultural asset of No.82(Ra) Southern Korean Byeolsin-gut. Along with Aram Lee, he is also a leading member of 'NaMu', Korean traditional music ensemble since 2015.

## **LINKS**

website: <http://sori.nyc/blackstring>

Bio, photos, video, tech rider: <http://bit.ly/sori-blackstring-assets>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blackstring11>

instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/blackstringband>

Video: <https://youtu.be/kawOPq0jgOA> ;

[https://youtu.be/\\_1lrBLXsmtU](https://youtu.be/_1lrBLXsmtU) ; <https://youtu.be/KBsvnvfUab8> ; <https://youtu.be/jrKY747-P90> ; <https://youtu.be/0EQe7wL2mZg>

All performances must be booked through the website in advance and admission fees may vary depending on the venue.

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## **\* CONTACT :**

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