



Black String

Borderless Contemporary Music from Korea

“An engaging exploration of what can be achieved by bringing ancient and modern into creative fusion”
- Jazzwise

Black String, based on Korean traditional music and improvisational music kind of jazz, attempts to create a unique language through Asian intuition and musical idiom. Black String aims to seek a new sound that can internalize a variety of musical expression in traditional music, as well as harmonize with other expression in world music. They were founded in 2011 Korea-UK cultural exchange program titled “UK Connection” project and have been performing at Jarasum International Jazz Festival (South Korea) and London Jazz Festival (UK) collaborating with UK artists; Tim Garland, John Turville, Asaf Sirkis and Gwilym Simcock and they are performing many more world renowned festivals and venues. Amplified and burst sound of Geomun-go, fierce quake of Korean traditional percussion, and unpredictable melody of jazz guitar will grasp all your senses.

Yoon Jeong Heo | Geomun-go; Six-string zither
Jean Oh | guitars, electronics
Aram Lee | Daegeum, Yanggeum
Min Wang Hwang | voice, Janggu, percussion

Booking

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Borderless Contemporary music band, Black String, was founded in 2011 Korea-UK cultural exchange program titled "UK Connection" project. The band consists of Yoon Jeong Heo(Geomun-go), Aram Lee(Daegum & Yanggeum), Jean Oh(Jazz guitar) and Min Wang Hwang(vocal, percussion). The band made its debut at Jarasum International Jazz Festival(Korea) and London Jazz Festival(UK) in 2012 collaborating with UK artists; Tim Garland(Saxes), John Turville(Piano/Keys), Asaf Sirkis(Drums) and Gwilym Simcock(Piano). Since then the band is expanding their musical horizon by teaming up with prominent Korean artists.

Black string aims to seek a new sound that can internalize a variety of musical expression in traditional music, as well as harmonize with other expression in world music. The new sound will be reinterpreted by artists who embrace traditional music as well as jazz, reflecting composed and improvised creations. It especially attempts to create a unique language through Asian intuition and improvisation as an important aspect of Korean traditional music and musical idiom. The music of Black String based on Korean musical traditions, will offer a fresh, new sound to audiences. And Black String will offer an experience that broadens the appreciation of the world music audience by presenting an "ancient" tradition within a modern setting.

Especially the leader of Black String, Yoon Jeong Heo is interested in expanding the possibilities of Geomun-go and bringing together different genres ranging from Korean traditional music, contemporary music and improvisation as a virtuoso of Geomun-go. Furthermore, she is a founder and a leader of world music project band "Tori Ensemble" which was selected at the 2010 PAMS Showcase and got invited to 2010 WOMEX(opening concert), 2011 WOMAD UK, 2012 WOMAD AU, and 2012 WOMAD NZ. Black String is another attempt after her "Tori Ensemble".

- ✓ **Black String** could be identically interpreted to Geomun-go that produces mysterious and deep sound in the way that Geomun-go means black color string instrument in Korean. Moreover, 'Black' stands for the eternal universe in the East. 'String' represents string instrument itself and lyrical aspect of Korean music simultaneously. 'String' also signifies not linear but rhythmic curve, unconstrained sound.



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 Esbjörn 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.

2013

Penang Island Jazz Festival (Malaysia)
Oslo World Music Festival (Norway)

2015

India Tour (Chennai, Kolkata, Kochi)
Clandestino Festival (Sweden)
Casada Musica (Portugal)


2017

APAP showcase (NY, USA)
Winter Jazzfest (NY, USA)
The Millennium Stage, The Kennedy Center
(Washington D.C., USA)
The Aventura Center (Miami, USA)
Korean Music Awards
Best Jazz&Crossover Performance
Babel Med Music, showcase (Marseille, France)
Sibiu Jazz Festival (Sibiu, Romania)
Budapest Music Center (Budapest Music, Hungary)
Druga Godba (Ljubljana, Slovenia)
Off-fest (Skopje, Macedonia)
Wellington Jazz Festival (Wellington, NZ)

2014

Seoul Art Market, PAMS Choice (Korea)
Jarasum International Jazz Festival (Korea)
JazzKorea Festival, Press Review (Germany)

2016

Jazz sous les Pommiers (France)
Taichung Jazz Festival (Taiwan)
WOMEX 16 Official Selection (Spain) 

2017

Roskilde Festival (Roskilde, Denmark)
das Haus (Ludwigshafen, Germany)
Filharmonia Festival (Gliwice, Poland)
Aux heures d'été (Nantes, France)
Nuits du Sud (Vence, France)
Les SUDS, à ARLES (Arles, France)
Yeowurock Festival (w/Julian Wasserfuh, Seoul, Korea)
K-Music Festival (w/Kathryn Tickell, London, UK)
Black String + Korea National Contemporary Dance
Company "Shooting Star"(Seoul Arts Center, Korea)

2018

Grunin Center for Arts(NJ, USA)
Flushing Town Hall(NY, USA)

• Video

NAVER onstage - Mask Dance
<https://youtu.be/kawOPq0jgOA>

NAVER onstage - Dang, Dang, Dang
<https://youtu.be/1IrBLXsmtU>

NAVER onstage - Growth Ring
<https://youtu.be/4CDuUw9jzXg>

WOMEX 16 - Official Showcase - Spain
<https://youtu.be/KBsvnvfUab8>

The Millennium Stage, the Kennedy Center
<https://youtu.be/wyRfL-uf3bU>

Yoon Jeong Heo

Virtuoso of Geomun-go; 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.

