



# LET'S PLAY! Nolja

Traditional Korean Drumming Incursion program

# What is

## Traditional Korean Music??

- ▶ Traditional Korean music or Gugak (국악) can be divided into 2 big branches: classical music (Jeongak - 정악) and folk music (Minsokak - 민속악).
- This incursion program focuses on Pungmulnori (풍물놀이) rhythms and it falls under the Minsokak branch.
- There are 4 main percussion instruments: Kkwaenggwari (꽝과리), Jangu (장구), Buk (북) and Jing (징).
- Pungmulnori was usually performed outside and during celebration periods. It incorporates percussion, dance and singing with everyone joining in to have fun whether they played an instrument or not.
- Over time, as the western influence started to take over in Korea, people lost interest in our own cultural music. Kim Duk Soo kept it alive by creating versions of our music suitable for the western stage. These performances currently dominate Korea and includes the well-known performance called Samulnori (사물놀이).



- ▶ You may come across the term Nongak (농악) which means farmer's music. This term is not preferred as it was used derogatorily during the Japanese colonisation era. It is best avoided.



And?

# So What?

**G**ugak is art that paints silence in many beautiful ways.

Unlike a lot of music where the focus tends to be on the notes we hear, Gugak places importance in the space between. Most of our music have odd number beats (3, 5, 7) in one cycle to allow the space inbetween to breathe. As a result, circular movement is consistently maintained and the music sounds "alive".

**A**longside appreciating this beauty of Korean music, these traits can be applied to any genre of music. With a transformed perception of time, students are challenged to break free from typical Western traditions governed by the metronome and barlines. Students can also expect to develop a higher ensemble awareness as extreme importance is placed on communal effort and a need to move as one through the action of breath.

**T**he program name Nolja means 'Let's play!' as it is deeply embedded in our philosophy to live in harmony, at peace and full of leisure.

With an overwhelmingly fast-paced new era filled with smart technology and digital interaction, I want to transport everyone back to the time we rang doorbells and not phones to ask permission to play. I want to draw them from behind their screens to immerse them in our traditional Korean culture and transfer our infectious playful energy.

# Meet the Teacher!



**Su Hee Cho**

## **Sydney Conservatorium of Music**

Bachelor of Music  
(Music Education)

Master of Music Studies  
(Collaborative Piano)  
Student of David Miller AM

## **Wonkwang Digital University**

Bachelor of Arts 4th Year  
(Korean Traditional Performing Arts)  
Mentored by Professor Chul-Ki Kim -  
Student of a Living National Treasure of South Korea

## **SamulNori Hanullim School**

Completed intensive program

## **Student of Il-Sang Moon**

(Founder of progressive Korean Traditional  
Percussion Group U-so)

I am a proud Korean-Australian multi-instrumentalist and educator with a passionate goal to place traditional Korean music on the global music map. Numerous steps are being taken to spread the beauty of the culture and your help is the very first!

As a qualified NSW classroom music teacher, it is an essential part of my teaching philosophy to ensure that student engagement and responsiveness always inform my teaching path. With years of experience teaching students from various backgrounds including students with disability and complex trauma, I constantly adapt my teaching and content to suit the various learning needs.

Through this exposure, I hope to open up additional creative routes for students by allowing them to utilise this new knowledge in their own compositions and performance practices. Gugak has helped me in my own musical journey and I would love to see it make an impact on the future generation of talented musicians.

# Incursion

# Details

Scan QR codes to see syllabus outcome links.



New 7-10  
Music Syllabus



New year 3-6  
Music Syllabus

Introduction to a unique performer and audience relationship followed by a standing Jangu performance giving students the opportunity to immerse in the newly learnt music culture.

Content of incursion will involve:

- explanation of performance and where it belongs within our traditional music disciplines
- terminology in Korean and discussion of specific traits unique to traditional Korean music
- learn our Jangdan (장단/rhythm) through Gooeum (구음) which is a spoken form of the rhythms
- awareness of ensemble playing through the concept of breath and round circular movements

Some students will have an opportunity to play the Jangdan on the traditional instruments.

All students will participate in a section of a typical Pungmulnori performance that involves dancing and playing a game. It will require application of the traditional Korean music concepts, rhythmic accuracy and focus.

Q&A



In our culture, music is to be enjoyed by everyone of all ages, status and physical capabilities. If we are unable to play the instruments, then we find another way to join in and enjoy.



# Rates

Due to the customisable nature of this incursion program, please contact me for a tailored quote for your school.

Suitable for Year 3-12

Duration: 50-55 mins (tailored to school timetable)

Group sizes available:

One class size\*: approx. 20-30 students

- Recommended group size for a session that allows instrument time for more students.

Large groups: bigger than one class size up to one year group capped at 100.

- Recommended group size for a more genuine experience of the communal Pungmulnori culture. There will be more emphasis on the expression of music through voice and movement with a few students to help me play the Jangdan on the instruments.

\*You must book a minimum of 2 sessions for the day.



Contact

# Information

If you have any enquiries,  
please feel free to contact me!

고맙습니다! (Gomabseubnida!)  
Thank you!

Email      ● su98cho@gmail.com  
Instagram   ● su98cho  
Website     ● www.chosuhee.com

