

Pansori

Concert Program + Lyrics

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철현금 산조

Cheolhyeongeum Sanjo

Cheolhyeongeum is an eight-metal-stringed zither, one of the newest gugak instrument created by Kim Young-Cheol in the 1930s, inspired by geomungo (Korean six-stringed zither) and guitar. Ever since, cheolhyeongeum gradually evolved into its unique appearance and performing techniques to meet the aesthetics of gugak, playing an active role on stage with its characteristic sound texture nowadays.

Cheolhyeongeum Sanjo was written by Kim Young-Cheol, the inventor of cheolhyeongeum. He was also known for being designated as a human cultural asset of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity for tightrope walking.

In Korean traditional music (Gugak), "Sanjo" refers to a genre of instrumental music that features virtuosic solo performances on instruments like the gayageum (traditional Korean zither), geomungo (Korean six-stringed zither), daegeum (large bamboo flute), or haegeum (Korean fiddle). The term "sanjo" means "scattered melodies" or "scattered tunes" in Korean.

Sanjo compositions are characterized by their improvisational nature, rhythmic complexity, and structured progression through different sections or movements. Typically, a sanjo piece starts with a slow and lyrical section called "Jinyang" gradually increasing in tempo and intensity through subsequent sections such as "jungmori," "gutgeori," "jajinmori," and "hwimori." Each section highlights different rhythmic patterns, melodic motifs, and techniques, allowing the performer to showcase their skill and creativity.

Sanjo originated during the Joseon Dynasty (14th to late 19th century) and has since evolved into various regional styles and repertoire. It holds a significant place in Korean traditional music (Gugak) and is cherished for its improvisatory spirit, artistic expression, and cultural heritage. Today, sanjo continues to be performed and appreciated by musicians and audiences both in Korea and around the world.

철현금 병창: 흥보가 중 박타는 대목

Cheolhyeongeum Byeongchang: 'Bak-Taryeong (Gourd Song)' from Pansori Heungbo-Ga

'Byeongchang' means to sing with an instrument. Folk songs or scenes from pansori repertoires are performed as byeongchang. Seo Yoon Jang was the first to start performing Cheolhyeongeum byeongchang in the gugak genre, while gayageum (12-stringed zither) is the most common instrument to perform.

Bak-Taryeong(Gourd song) is from pansori Heungbo-Ga. Heungbo and his family suffer from poverty after getting kicked out of their home which Heungbo's family and his greedy brother Nolbo lived together. But a swallow gives Heungbo a magical seed as a reward for saving his life, which grows into three giant gourds. Bak-Taryeong is a scene where Heungbo and his family harvest these gourds and open them up to feed themselves, two limitless chests filled with rice and money come out making the family wealthy. Heungbo sings out of joy and announces that from now on, he will reach out to the ones in need.

판소리 단가 사철가

Danga: Sacheol-Ga (Song of the Four Seasons)

Danga means "a short song" which is sung before singing a pansori performance to warm up the singer and the audience. The most loved danga is Sacheol-Ga, which begins with the line "Flowers bloom here and there. It must be spring." The song compares the four seasons – spring, summer, fall, and winter – to a person's life: Youth equated with springtime and elderly years as the snowy winter. "A sip of wine while you live enjoyed with the ones you love is better than thousands of glasses after death, so make the time go slow, let us be forever young." The song tells us not to despair while there are still precious days to live.

판소리 춘향가 중 사랑가

Pansori: Sarang-Ga(Love Song) from pansori Chunhyang-Ga

Pansori is a musical storytelling, one of the main vocal genres of gugak. Sarang-Ga is from Pansori Chunhyang-Ga, a scene where Chunhyang and Mongryong confess their love for each other. The daughter of a kisaeng(entertainer) Chunhyang falls in love with the son of a magistrate Mongryong. The two take an oath of marriage in secret, promising their love forever. Though they only get to see each other after daylight, the love they share brightens the night. It is the most famous, loved song of all pansori repertoires.

소리북 산조

Daejeon Soribuk Sanjo

Soribuk is a barrel drum used to accompany pansori. Daejeon Soribuk Sanjo is a musical piece created based on the solo performances of the master Park Oyong, who showcased his expertise with the soribuk on broadcast media. It was further developed by Park Geunyoung,

a renowned holder of intangible cultural heritage in Daejeon specializing in Pansori Drumming. Starting from the slow-paced "Jinyangjo," it progresses through various rhythmic patterns such as "Jungmori," "Jungjungmori," "Jajeunmori," "Eotmori," "Dongsalpuli," and culminates with the fastest tempo known as "Hwimori."

Lyrics

판소리 춘향가 중 사랑가

Pansori: Sarang-Ga (Love Song) from pansori Chunhyang-Ga

Narration / Song

Chunhyang and Mongryong promised their love forever.

A day and two, several days pass by.

These youngsters no longer feel shy toward each other and become emotionally attached.

One day, they sing a love song while holding and cuddling.

Just like an old tiger from the mountains caught a plump female dog,

but the tiger could not eat the dog because it lost all its teeth,

so the tiger roared and jumped over the dog repeatedly.

Just like a phoenix from a red mountain held a bamboo seed in its mouth

and flew in and out of a paulownia tree.

Like a black dragon from the North Sea held a magical bead in its mouth

and moved in and out of colorful clouds.

Like a blue crane from a deep valley held an orchid in its mouth and flew in and out of a stream.

Oh my love, my precious love! Yes dear, You are my love.

Our love is deep like the vast blue sea on which the leaves fall.

We enjoy our love at night, with the bright moon above many mountains.

Given our love was like this past life, how could there be no love after death?

When life ends, you will become a divine peach blossom.

When life ends, I will become a butterfly.

*In March, when everything is beautiful, I will hug your petals with my wings
and dance gracefully so that you know it's me.*

If a blossom withers down, a butterfly will not come and seek to find another.

Therefore I do not wish to be a flower.

Then, when life ends, you shall become a beautiful bell on Jongro Street in Seoul.

I will become a hammer. I will ring the bell night and day, so you know it's me.

But I do not wish to be a bell.

Then, when life ends, you shall become words: earth, ground, moon, shadow, and woman.

I will also become words: heaven, sky, day, sun, light, and man.

As long as these words are together, the joy will overflow.

Chunhyang, let's have fun by giving a piggyback.

I am too shy to do such. Also, what if my mother finds out?

I am positive that the elders experienced much more dynamic things than that.

Enough talk, let's play!

Come here. Let me give you a piggyback.

Love, love, my love. Oh love! You are my love.

What do you want to eat?

Would you like to eat a round watermelon,

seeds picked red flesh, with honey drizzled on top?

No, I don't want that

Then, what do you want to eat?

Would you like to eat a sweet melon?

No, I don't want any.

Then, what do you want to eat?

Do you want cherries, grapes, candies, or glutinous rice jellies?

Whatever you like my love.

Walk away, so I can adore you from far.

Come closer, so I can see your face.

Show me your tottering steps. Let me see how you walk.

Laugh for me so that I can see your smile.

Just the way you are, my true love.

Chunhyang, since I gave you a piggyback, give me one too.

You gave me a piggyback because I am light.

But you are heavy. How can I give you a piggyback?

I never meant heavily, I will put my arms on your shoulder and follow you with big steps.

We will have fun that way.

Oh my dear husband. My love.

Giving you a piggyback ride brings out the joy in me.

A bee and a butterfly are happy on a lotus flower and a peony blossom.

The great rivers and lakes rise to ceaseless happiness.

Oh my love. Oh my dear lover.

Moon, oh dear moonlight. Even though you are so busy.

Please stay in the middle of the sky and hold tomorrow to come.

We pray the rest of our days will be just like tonight.

Let us be forever young.

Love it is, yes you are my love.

Oh, my sweet Love.

철현금 병창 흥보가 중 박타는 대목

Cheolhyeongeum Byeongchang: 'Bak-Taryeong (Gourd Song)' from Pansori Heungbo-Ga

Narration / *Song*

Thanksgiving came around but Heungbo's family was suffering from poverty.
Heungbo said to his wife,
Sweetheart, let's harvest the gourds from the roof
cook the flesh to feed ourselves, sell the shell to the rich and save our children.
That is a good idea.
Heungbo and his wife picked three gourds.
With a saw, they started opening the first one.

Move the saw back and forth, push and pull the saw.

When this gourd is sawn open, I want nothing but a bucket of rice.

Eating well is an earnest wish in my life.

Move the saw back and forth, push and pull the saw.

Slide the saw, back and forth, push and pull the saw, and it cracks open.

The gourd is cut open, but it seems to be empty.
I know they say there's bones in the egg for an unlucky man,
but some thief must have eaten up the flesh and left these two wooden chests inside.
This is bizarre. Heungbo's wife speaks.
Whatever it is, let's open and see what's inside.
When Heunbo opened one of the wooden chest,
It was filled with rice.
When he opened the other, it was filled with money.
The couple was thrilled, they started to shake the money and rice out of the wooden chests.

Heungbo is thrilled, he is joyous.

He pours things out of the wooden chests, it becomes full again.

He shakes them out, turns around and checks inside, the chests are filled with rice and money.

Turns around and checks inside, it is full again.

Turns around and checks inside, the chests are filled with rice and money again.

How fantastic! 365 days, please come out endlessly throughout the year!

Hurray! Hurray! Oh my! Hurray! Look at this money, watch the money.

Money that is good and bad for the good and bad people.

Money that is round like a wheel of a cart.

Money that makes a person live or die.

Money, you rascal! Money you brat! Where have you been? Hurray!

Hello folks, I have an announcement to make.

Do not be arrogant with your wealth and do not be depressed by poverty.

I, Heungbo, was a beggar up until yesterday, but today I am rich.

How can I be happier than this? Hurray!

Poor, hungry folks come to see Park Heungbo.

I am going to feed hungry people from today. Hurray! Oh my! Hurray!