

The Story of Sim Cheong: a p'ansori concert

Featuring...

Il-Dong Bae, p'ansori singer

Dong-Won Kim, percussionist

River Run Centre, Cooperators Hall

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 7pm

Tickets: \$30 (Available at festival.artseverywhere.ca)

"If Volcanoes could sing, then they would sound like Bae Il-Dong. The Korean's voice has such breath that it not only fills physical space like a lava flow, but seems to stretch back across time"

- John Shand, ABC Jazz

Presented by Musagetes and the International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation (IICSI)

Il-Dong Bae is highly regarded as one of Korea's finest p'ansori singers. He has performed numerous concerts both internationally and within Korea and his extraordinary life story is featured in the documentary, *Intangible Asset Number 82*.

Dong-Won Kim is a Korean percussionist, vocalist, composer, and improviser. He has studied Korean traditional music since 1984, including farmers' drumming and dance, shaman music, and Pansori accompaniment.

Emerging during the mid Chosŏn era (1392-1910), p'ansori is a style of epic story singing performed by a



vocalist and drummer (kosu). The vocalist narrates long dramatic tales through speech, song, and action, while the drummer accompanies the singer and gives calls of encouragement (ch'üimsae) such as ölsigu (right-on!) at the end of vocal phrases.

Il-Dong Bae's renowned interpretation of the epic song Shimch'öngga (The Story of Sim Cheong) has been documented in a unique outdoor performance setting and (featuring Dong-Won Kim) released as a Super Audio CD in late 2010. His work as a contemporary improviser can be heard in his performances with the collaborative ensemble Daorum, and more recently in the work of Chiri.

"Every pore of his being is devoted to expressing the deep emotion he feels for traditional Korean culture. Its philosophy, physicality and spirituality are organic to Dong-Won's art. It is an inspiration to make music with him."

– Yo-Yo Ma

Traditionally, in order to master the various elements of p'ansori, singers would spend long periods (100 days) in isolation, singing into waterfalls in order to "break" the voice and reveal the "true" tone. Il-Dong, a performer steeped in the eastern school (tongp'yönje) of p'ansori, is one of the few contemporary singers to follow this harsh tradition. While still a student, he traveled to Mount Chiri on the southern end of the Sobaek Mountain Range and spent seven years living by a waterfall, practicing up to 18 hours a day in order to reveal his voices.

The [Improviser-in-Residence Program](#) is a collaborative partnership of [Musagetes](#) and the [International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation \(IICSI\)](#) bringing improvising musicians into meaningful, sustained contact with local residents of all ages and musical persuasions in Guelph and the surrounding areas.

For more information, contact Shawn Van Sluys (shawn.vansluys@musagetes.ca).



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