



University of Maryland School of Music Presents

KOREAN DRUMMING CONCERT
UMD Korean Percussion Ensemble

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 • 8PM

DEKELBOUM CONCERT HALL

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



**SCHOOL OF
MUSIC**

University of Maryland School of Music Presents

AN EVENING OF KOREAN PERCUSSION MUSIC

KOREAN DRUMMING CONCERT
Featuring Washington Samulnori

UMD Korean Percussion Ensemble
Sebastian Wang, Music Director

Utdari Samulnori.....Samulnori

Washington Samulnori
Sebastian Wang, Music Director

Samdo SulChanggo Samulnori

Samdo Nongak Garak..... Samulnori



Sebastian Wang was born in Washington, D.C. and has lived in Maryland most of his life. He encountered Samulnori when he was six years old and started taking private lessons when he was nine. He started to perform with a group when he was 14, performing at various local universities as well as the Kennedy Center. After graduating from high school, he continued his study at The Korea National University of Arts in Seoul, Korea, under renowned Samulnori founder and master, Kim Duk Soo. After graduating from the university, Sebastian returned to the States and began teaching and performing in the local Washington D.C. area. He is also the executive director of Washington Samulnori, a local professional Samulnori group based in the Washington D.C. area.

WASHINGTON SAMULNORI is a professional Korean traditional percussion performing troupe, dedicated to performing and preserving “Samulnori.” The Korean words “sa” and “mul” mean “four things” and “nori” means “to play.” In the case of Samulnori, it refers to the four musicians playing four different types of percussive instruments: the changgo (hourglass-shaped drum), the buk (barrel drum), the jing (large gong), and the kkwaenggwari (small gong). The origins of their music can be traced to farmers’ band music (“nong-ak”) and ceremonial music. The repertoire of Samulnori also integrates the influences of folk and religious music, and their intricate rhythms have become quite uniquely their own.

Founded in 2015, by Sebastian Wang, the group’s director, Washington Samulnori consists of local professional musicians who specialize in Samulnori. Director Wang hopes to promote and teach Samulnori with this group and prolong the future and livelihood of Samulnori in the United States.

THE UMD KOREAN PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE was formed in 2009 under the leadership of Dr. Robert Provine, UMD ethnomusicology professor emeritus, specializing in Korean music. The ensemble is one of the one of newer courses in the ethnomusicology department at the University of Maryland, and has received a great amount of support from the UMD community as well as the public. During the course, students learn to play Samulnori, Korean traditional percussion, and learns one of four instruments: the changgo (hourglass-shaped drum), the buk (barrel drum), the jing (large gong), or the kkwaenggwari (small gong). The ensemble is the first of its kind at the University of Maryland, and one of few in the United States.

Udtari Samulnori

Udtari Samulnori features the styles and rhythms unique to Gyeonggi and Chungcheong provinces. The rhythms originate from the different farmers' band music from these two areas. This piece features very colorful and dynamic use of the lead brass gong, the kweanggarri. In the middle of the piece, two kweanggarri are used at the same time, and they interact with each other as well as the rest of the group.

– Program note by Sebastian Wang

Samdo SulChanggo

Samdo SulChanggo highlights the hourglass-shaped drum, the changgo. All players are playing this instrument and are playing rhythms from all three major provincial areas in Korea. Each style is unique and is featured in different movements in the piece. The piece starts with the slow rhythm, *gutgeori*, and ends with the fast and exciting rhythm, *hwimori*.

– Program note by Sebastian Wang

Samdo Nongak Garak

One of the most popular staple repertoire of Samulnori, this piece's title can be translated as, "Farmers' Band Rhythms of the Three Provincial Areas." It showcases the various styles and movements unique to the different types of farmers' band music from the three major provincial areas in Korea. These various rhythms are performed on all four traditional instruments. The final section features two kkweanggarri players performing together while interacting with the other instruments.

– Program note by Sebastian Wang

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND KOREAN PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Sebastian Wang, *Music Director*

Undergraduate Students

Sarah Bennett
Grace Darling
Emre Derin
Peter Kozlov
Mare Lennon
William Valdes

Washington Samulnori

Sebastian Wang, *Music Director*

Robin Ghertner
Hyunggoo Kang
Yoonyoung Heo
Sanghyuk Park