

Korean Cultural Society of Boston
Rising Stars Concert Series
September 10, 2022

Samulnori Fantasy: *Seasons*

ACT I

Prelude: Moonlit Invocation 달빛 기도

Movement I: Moon Rabbits in Lunar Land 달나라의 옥토끼들

Moon-gut (The traditional opening ritual of Samulnori)	문굿
Banquet Announcement from the Queen of Lunar Land	달나라 축제 선포
Rabbits' Seonban Samulnori (Samulnori in standing position)	토끼들의 풍물 (선반 사물놀이)
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~~~ *INTERMISSION* ~~~

ACT II

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|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
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**Movement V: A Time to Dance**    춤을 출 때

|                                                      |           |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 5-1: 7th Moonstar Street (7th Byeoldalgeori Street). | 별달거리 7 번가 |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|

**Postlude: Seasons**    계절

# Samulnori Fantasy: Seasons

Written & Composed by Mina Cho

Boston's night skyline with moonlit waters of the Charles River evokes the magic that inspired Mina Cho's second musical narrative, *Samulnori Fantasy: Seasons*. In the style of the Pansori Cantata first introduced in Cho's 2019 *Gilryungjeon* ("The Dream of Gilryung"), the narrative takes the form of Korean traditional Pansori [storytelling in voice] with Samulnori [four primary percussion instruments – *Jing* (big gong), *Janggu* (drum), *Kkwaenggwari* (small gong), and *Buk* (drum)]. Samulnori is a contemporary counterpart of Korean Pungmul (a Korean folk music tradition rooted in the collective farming culture called 'Dure') and Namsadang (an itinerant traditional performing arts troupe). Throughout the piece, Korean traditional music is interweaved with the sounds of modern Jazz and Gospel music.

*Seasons* features a moon rabbit, Rain, whose possesses a singing power to call forth the rain, and a young woman, Sunnie, who studies business in Boston after giving up her dream of becoming a master Pansori singer. After celebrating his retirement from 100 years of musical priesthood in Lunar Land, Rain is allowed to travel to the Human World, but for only one night of the full moon. A magical pathway, named 7th Moonstar Street, appears between Lunar Land and the Charles River for Rain's trip. Upon reaching the Charles River, he meets Sunnie. Powerfully inspired through music and conversation, Rain and Sunnie begin to explore their passion for music and embrace a new season in their lives.

In the story, the overarching imagery of Moonstar Street connects seemingly unrelated events in life, embracing the ideal Lunar Land and the human world. The successive movements portray scenes of Lunar Land, of Boston's Charles River, Sunnie's funeral, and an ideal world where Sunnie reunites with her loved ones. As the narrative evolves, the spirit of Korean traditional music infused with contemporary music elements resonates with many aspects of life and emotion.

## ACT I

### Prelude: Moonlit Invocation 달빛 기도

*N.Lee (piri & voice), L..Haruvi (saxophone), R.Pate (voice), F.Malek (voice), J.Copeland (voice)*

Polytextual chant that symbolizes prayers to call forth the rain in the human world and Lunar Land. It unites the styles of Korean classical and Western choral music with collective jazz improvisation.

|                    |                                           |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 풍운우전 월광지청          | In the chasm between heaven and earth     |
| 천상의 구름이여 바람 타고 오소서 | The wind moves the clouds                 |
|                    | The rain brings the thunder               |
| 달빛 품은 강은 어루만지시고    | Heaven, let the moonlight touch the river |
| 마른 땅과 영혼에 비를 내리소서  | Bring the rain to the earth               |
|                    | To the souls in a drought                 |

### Movement I: Moon Rabbits in Lunar Land 달나라의 옥토끼들

On the night of the full moon in the season of harvest, moon rabbits celebrate the retirement of Rain the Rabbit from 100 years of musical priesthood in Lunar Land.

**Moon-gut (The traditional opening ritual of Samulnori) 문굿 (사물놀이 전통 오프닝 의식)**

*Y.Seong (jing), I.Kim (kkwaenggwari), Y.Yoon (janggu), J.Kim (buk)*

**Banquet Announcement from the Queen of Lunar Land 달나라 축제 선포**

**J.Kim (voice & buk)**

This is a proclamation from the Queen of Lunar Land:

"Today the priest Rain the Rabbit has completed 100 years of his singing to call forth the rain and is crossing 7th Moonstar Street. I am hosting a special feast tonight to celebrate Rain's retirement and appreciate the labors of the other priest and farmer rabbits.

Listen, all you moon rabbits! Play music and prepare a bountiful feast!

Let's have a joyful full moon fest!"

**Rabbits' Seonban Samulnori (Samulnori in standing position) 토끼들의 풍물 (선반 사물놀이)**

**1-1: The Full Moon Fest 보름달 축제**

*Y.Kim (drums), I.Kim (kkwaenggwari), N.Lee (taepyeongso)*

**1-2: The Rain Song 비가 (Part I)**

*R.Pate (voice), F.Malek (voice), J.Copeland (voice), L.Haruvi (saxophone)*

**Movement II: The Moonlit Charles River 달빛 머금은 찰스강**

Singing a farewell song, "Moonstar Chorus," with his colleague priest rabbits, Rain crosses 7th Moonstar Street and reaches Boston's Charles River, where he meets Sunnie. Captivated by the enchanting night views of Boston with moonlit waters and the magical sound of "Moonstar Chorus," Sunnie is inspired to sing and ponder her past.

**2-1: Wolsanga 월산가**

(Based on a Traditional Korean Folk Song, "Wolsanga" – the opening song of Utdari Samulnori, adapting the traditional rhythms from the Gyeonggi and Chungcheong provinces of Korea)

*M.Cho (piano), Y.Seong (jing), I.Kim (kkwaenggwari), Y.Yoon (janggu), J.Kim (buk)*

Lyrics:

아 헤 에헤

Ah Heh Eh-heh

아 에헤 허

Ah Eh-heh Huh

오늘은 가다 여기서 놀고,

Let's go play here.

내일은 가다가 저기서 놀고.

We'll go play there tomorrow.

얼싸 절싸

Eol-sah Jeol-sah

얼싸 절싸

Eol-sah Jeol-sah

놀러나 가세.

Let's go play.

놀러나 가요!

Let's go play together!

월산리 땅으로 놀러나 가세.

Let's go to the land of Wolsan-li and play there!

Lyrics (Sung Narration 창조):

황금 달빛이 가리운 얼굴

Your face illuminated by the golden moonlight

금빛 물결의 선율 따라

My heart dances

이 내 마음 일렁이네

To the melody of the golden waves

**2-2: Moonstar Chorus 별달 코러스**

*R.Pate (voice), F.Malek (voice), J.Copeland (voice), B.Kim (gueum)*

Lyrics:

The moonlight will lead your way. The stars will bless your way.

Moonlit river, the pathway to the moonlight! Seventh Moonstar Street!

### **Movement III: In the Moonlit Shadow    달빛 그림자 속에**

Singing together in the moonlit shadow, without visual recognition, Sunnie and Rain are musically inspired and learn about each other through their conversation. Discovering their true passion for music behind their emotional burdens as a musical priest and the daughter of a lead Namsadang (a member of the itinerant traditional performing arts troupe), Sunnie and Rain release the past and face a new season in their lives. ACT I ends with the song, “Human Rabbit,” which describes the shocking moment of Rain’s physical identity, now fully revealed to Sunnie, and his quickly disappearing into the air as his one-night trip ends.

#### **3-1: The Sunnie Song    순이의 노래**

***B.Kim (voice)***

Lyrics:

내 어릴 적 꿈은 멋진 내 아버지처럼  
춤추고 노래하며  
지친 마음들에게 힘을 주는 것

I used to dream of becoming a wonderful person  
like my father,  
Who sang and danced to encourage weary souls.

봄, 여름 또 가을, 아빠는 내 생각을 했을까  
겨울을 기다리며 하루하루 노래했지

As the spring, summer, and fall came and went...  
'Dad, were you thinking of me?'  
I sang every day waiting for the winter to come.

그건 고통이었어  
외로운 시간들, 남겨진 가족들

A time of pain and sorrow,  
A time of loneliness, and the family left behind

따스했던 목소리, 위로하던 몸짓  
내 아버지... 아빠가 그리워

The sweet voice, the comforting dance  
My father... I miss my dad.

그 길을 가고 싶었어  
하지만 난 너무 두려워  
그 집이 무거워

Once I desired to follow  
The heavy pathway he went  
In fear of my unrealized dreams.

#### **3-2: The Rain Song    비가 (Part II)**

***R.Pate (voice)***

(Verse 1)

Every day I woke up feeling lonely  
Singing for the rain was all I could do  
I used to think  
'I wish I could go somewhere'  
'Who am I?'  
'Why am I here?'

(Verse 2)

Every day I woke up feeling burdened.  
I was lost. My blessings felt like a curse.  
'Where is my life?'  
'Where is my song?'

'Who am I?'  
'Where should I go?'  
  
(Refrain)  
But music... Yes!  
Music hears my worries!  
The magic sees my dreams  
Inside my heart.

Oh, music...  
Music heals our sorrows!  
My song will rain your heart  
The little hope inside you.  
  
(Coda)  
It will glow in the dark!  
Yes, it will shine tonight  
On the night of the full moon.

### 3-3: Chilchae Arirang 칠채 아리랑

(Based on a Traditional Korean Folk Song, "Gangwondo Arirang," and a traditional rhythmic cycle called Chilchae)

*L.Haruvi (alto saxophone), N.Lee (taepyeongso), B.Kim (voice), Y.Seong (jing, kkwaenggwari), I.Kim (kkwaenggwari), Y.Yoon (janggu), J.Kim (buk)*

### 3-4: Human Rabbit 토끼인간

*B. Kim (pansori), I. Kim (sori-buk)*

Lyrics:

짐.승.인.간. 옥토끼가 웬 말이냐  
쫓긋 솟은 귀를 보소  
복슬복슬 털로 가득한 면상을 보니  
이놈 분명 토끼구나!

네가 진정 비를 내리는 옥토끼냐?  
별달거리 주인이냐?

사내의 쫓긋 솟은 귀가 사라지더니  
돌망돌망 조약돌 같은 눈만 꿈~뻑

길다랗게 뻗은 수염이 불에 타듯 쪼그라든다. The long beard shrinks as if on fire!  
비단 옷깃 사이 보이는  
저 손이라도 잡아보자  
휘이! 휘이! 휘이!

숨 멩치를 붙인 듯한  
양증맞은 꼬리만 남았건만  
이 마저도 휘이!  
어디 보자! 휘이!

갔구나!

Human beast! Moon rabbit!

Look at the long-pricked ears!

What about the face full of fluffy hair?

This must be a rabbit!

Are you really a moon rabbit?

You really crossed the moonstar street?

His ears are disappearing...

Now his eyes twinkle like shiny pebbles.

Let me touch his hand

Inside the silk sleeve

Swish! Hui! Hui!

Only the cute tiny tail remains.

Even this is disappearing... Swish!

Swish!

Let me see! Hui!

He is gone!

~~~ INTERMISSION ~~~

ACT II

Movement IV: Sunnie's Funeral 순이의 장례식

The mysterious event at the Charles River remaining veiled, ACT II begins with Sunnie's funeral. The soul of dead Sunnie elegantly sings "Ecstatic Voyage," alluding to her new journey to eternity after living a full life.

Originally titled "Beompi Jungryu" (A boat floating in the middle of a wide river) in Korean, the main theme of "Ecstatic Voyage" is featured in two traditional Pansori repertoires, *Simcheongga* (Song of the Devoted Daughter) and *Sugungga* (Song of the Underwater Palace). It depicts the beautiful natural scenery seen from a boat in a peaceful atmosphere. In each story, the song is sung by the protagonist, who discovers the transcendental beauty of the last scenery of the physical world (Simcheong expecting her death and the rabbit awaiting a new life in the Underwater Palace). In the context of *Simcheongga*, "Beompi Jungryu" creates an irony by contrasting Simcheong's graceful singing in the last moment of her life with her heartbreaking state of mind as she leaves her blind father behind. Similarly, Sunnie's singing of "Ecstatic Voyage" and of the subsequent narration is juxtaposed with mixed feelings of sadness and peace.

At the beginning of the puppet show, which is an important theatrical repertoire of Samulnori performance, an old man in Sunnie's hometown mourns exaggeratedly over her bier, mistaking it for his deceased friend, Mr. Kim. This humorous situation soon transitions to his conversation with a bier-carrier. The conversation implies that Sunnie enjoyed her life as a Pansori singer despite many challenging circumstances, during which she recounted episodes featuring a moon rabbit she had met. The chief-mourner at the funeral turns out to be Sunnie's granddaughter, who is currently studying in Boston. Could it be that the dead Sunnie's granddaughter was the one who met Rain the Rabbit at Boston's Charles River in ACT I?

4-1: Ecstatic Voyage 범피중류 (Beompijungryu)

(Based on "Beompijungryu" from the Traditional Pansoris, *Simcheongga* and *Sugungga*)

**B.Kim (pansori & gueum), N.Lee (piri), L.Haruvi (soprano saxophone), M.Cho (piano),
Y.Kim (drums), M.Song (bass)**

Lyrics:

범피중류 등덩실 떠나간다.

A boat glides smoothly

망망헌 창해이며

Over the boundless sea

탕탕헌 물결이라.

In expansive waves

Lyrics (Sung Narration 창조):

너의 마음 나의 마음 방황하는 영혼일랑

Our troubled hearts, wandering souls

아리따운 풍경속에 풍덩 집어 던지고

Let them powerfully absorb into the beautiful scenery

네 가는 길 축복하며, 내 가는 길 노래하세

Blessed be your journey, I will sing my way

4-2: Funeral Song 상여소리 (Part I)

(Based on Traditional Korean Folk Song)

J.Kim (voice)

Puppet Show Acting 인형극 연기

J.Kim & Y.Yoon

4-3: Funeral Song 상여소리 (Part II)

(Based on a Traditional Korean Folk Song)

M.Cho (piano), M.Song (bass), N.Lee (taepyungso)

Movement V: A Time to Dance 춤을 출 때

“Byeoldalgeori Chant” is a part of Samulnori repertoire from Youngnam region of Korea, rooted in traditional Korean farmers’ prayers for a bountiful harvest. Literally meaning “street with the stars and moon,” the imagery of Byeoldalgeori (moonstar street) centers around the story *Seasons*. “7th Moonstar Street” in this movement, preceded by Sunnie’s funeral, suggests her performance in an ideal world. Reminiscent of 7th Moonstar Street, which Rain crossed to reach the Charles River, it is a time to dance for Sunnie after mourning.

5-1: 7th Moonstar Street (7th Byeoldalgeori Street) 별달거리 7 번가

M.Cho (piano), L.Haruvi (soprano saxophone), Y.Kim (drums), Y.Seong (jing),

I.Kim (kkwaenggwari), Y.Yoon (janggu), J.Kim (buk)

Moonstar Street Chant 별달거리 사설 (from Youngnam Region of Korea)

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 하늘보고 별을 따고 땅을 보고 농사짓고 | We gather the stars looking up to the sky, |
| 올해도 대풍이요 내년에도 풍년일세 | We farm standing firm on the ground.
This year is abundant, next year will be rich. |
| 달아 달아 밝은 달아 대낮같이 밝은 달아 | Moon, you glow through the light of the stars. |
| 어둠속에 불빛이 우리네를 비춰주네 | The light in the dark shines upon our souls. |

Postlude: Seasons 계절

The ending of “7th Moonstar Street” segues into “Seasons,” for which Rain the Rabbit and his Moonstar Chorus rabbits join and sing together. Sunnie reunites with her loved ones after all. The text of the song highlights various aspects of the seasonal life cycles as presented in Ecclesiastes 3.

B.Kim (voice & gueum), R.Pate (voice), F.Malek (voice), J.Copeland (voice)

Lyrics:

| | |
|------------|---|
| (Refrain) | Seasons! Seasons!
For its own time, there is a season. |
| (Verse 1) | There is a time to be born, a time to die,
A time to plant and a time to harvest
There is a season. This is my season. |
| (Bridge 1) | For everything there is a season
A time for every matter under heaven |
| (Verse 2) | There is a time to cry, a time to laugh,
And a time to grieve and a time to dance
There is a season. It is your season. |
| (Verse 3) | Scatter stones, now gather stones!
Let’s embrace them all, and we turn away! |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| (Refrain) | Seasons! Seasons!
For its own time, there is a season. |
| (Verse 4) | 범사에 기한 있고 천하 만사 때가 있고
날 때 있고 죽을 때가 있고 심을 때 있으면 뽑을 때가 있지 |
| (Bridge 2) | 울 때 있고 웃을 때도 있고
슬플 때가 있으면 춤출 때가 있지 |
| (Refrain 3) | 범사 기한 (Seasons) 천하 만사 (Seasons)
돌을 던지고 (Seasons) 돌을 거두고 (Seasons) |
| (Bridge 3) | 여름 지나고 가을 지나 겨울이 와도 |
| (Verse 5) | 겨울이면 곧 봄이 오네 해야
얼씨구나 아 좋다 |
| (Ending) | For everything there is a season.
It's beautiful for its own time.
Seasons! |
| (Coda) | Our seasons have come! |

Survey and KCG Youtube Channel

The Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs invites you to participate in a short survey to share your experience of tonight's concert. You can fill out the survey by visiting <https://bit.ly/3B0RsSh> or the QR code on the right. Your participation is much appreciated - thank you!



Further, in celebration of *Chuseok* (Korean Thanksgiving day), a small gift is prepared in appreciation of clicking Like or Subscribe button at the Korean Consulate General's Youtube Channel www.youtube.com/c/kcgboston or the QR code on the left.