About the Artists

Seo Hye Han, ballet
Seo Hye Han joined Boston Ballet as a company dancer in 2012, after dancing with the Universal Ballet Company as a soloist for three seasons. She began her studies at the Korean National University of Arts and graduated in 2009.
Han performed in the World Ballet Star Festival in Korea with Daniil Simkin and the Havana Ballet Festival in Cuba. She had roles in performances of Don Quixote (Kitri), La Bayadère (Gamzatti), Onegin (Olga), The Nutcracker (Clara), Swan Lake (Odette, Odile), Simchung (Simchung), and Kiří Kylían’s Sechs Tänze.
Her repertoire with Boston Ballet includes George Ballanchine’s Jewels, Coppélia, Serenade, Symphony in Three Movements, Theme and Variation, and Kammermusik No. 2; John Cranko’s Onegin, Jorma Elo’s Bach Cello Suites, William Forsythe’s The Virtiginous Thrill of Exactitude, Jose Martinez’s Resonance, Wayne McGregor’s Chroma, and Mikko Nissinen’s The Nutcracker and Swan Lake.
Han has received honors and awards in many international dance competitions including the silver medal in 2004 at Bulgaria’s Varna International Ballet Competition, a scholarship to Vaganova Ballet Academy in the 2005 Prix de Lausanne, a silver medal in the 2008 Varna International Ballet Competition, the Joffrey Prize in the 2010 USA International Ballet Competition, and the Gold Medal in the 2012 Boston International Ballet Competition.
Han joined Boston Ballet in 2012 as a soloist and was promoted to principal dancer in 2016.

Kari Juusela, cello
Kari Henrik Juusela is a Finnish-American composer, performer, and educator who is dean of the Professional Writing and Music Technology Division at Berklee College of Music.

In addition to writing music in styles ranging from pop to contemporary classical, he enjoys playing and recording the cello, bass, guitar, piano, table, and the Finnish kantele. His compositions have won numerous awards from such organizations as the Vienna State Opera, the International Trumpet Guild, the London Chamber Music Society, the Composer’s Guild, and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). He has also won the International Red Stick Composition Competition, the American Songwriting Awards Contest, the San Francisco Art Song Competition, and the Aliénor Harpsichord Composition Contest.

Juusela's works have been performed at many important venues, including Carnegie and Tchaikovsky Hall by internationally acclaimed ensembles and performers, as well as by numerous rock, pop, and jazz groups.

He is the author of more than 20 college-level courses and is the author of the Berklee Contemporary Dictionary of Music.

Juusela holds degrees from the University of Maryland, Georgia State University, and Berklee College of Music. His music is published by ISG Publications, MuusJuus Music, and Yelton Rhodes Music, and is recorded on ERM, Beauport Classical, Lakeside Records, Capstone Records, and MuusJuus Music.

Na Young Kim, sori
Na Young Kim studied Korean Music at Seoul National University and received several notable awards including the Gold Prize in Pansori from Dong-Ah Music Competition (1998) and the Presidential Award in Pansori from Jeonju Daesaseup Competition (2014). She was also acknowledged as Yisuja (Experienced Learner) of the Korean Intangible Cultural Property No. 5, Pansori Shimchungga in 2014.
She has performed for Korean Cultural Week Festival in Mexico (2016) and Hungary (2017), and released a CD “Bosung Sori Shimchungga” in 2017. Ms. Kim currently teaches at National High School of Traditional Arts.
Tae-Young Kim, janggu
Tae-Young Kim received the Presidential Award from the Korean Traditional Music Competition and also received the Grand Prize in Korean Broadcasting System Competition. He was acknowledged as Jeonsuja (Experienced Teacher) of the Korean Intangible Cultural Property No. 72, Jindo sikimgut. He currently teaches as a lecturer at Korean National University of Arts and a member of the performance group Baraji.

Tae-Baek Lee, ajaeng
As a Maestro in Korean folk music, Tae-baek Lee is a master Ajaeng (bowed zither) player, drummer, and pansori (epic story-telling with voice) singer who can perform many different traditional music repertoires. Lee, from a pansori family in Jindo of South Jeolla Province, is a Candidate for Korean Intangible Cultural Property No. 72 Jindo Ssitgingut (southwestern shaman ritual), as well as No. 5 Pansori Gobeop (drum accompaniment) and No. 34 Gangsanje Simcheongga (a repertoire of pansori).

Lee earned the master and doctoral degrees in music performance at Hanyang University. He was awarded the Grand Prize in the field of instrument player at Jeonju Daesaseup Competition in 1994 and the President Prize at National Gosu Competition in 2001.

Lee formerly served as music director of the National Theater of Korea Changgeuk and the youth art group Saeullim and leader of the folk music ensemble Menari. He was also involved in Korea-Japan Music Festival, held at Nagoya, Japan, and Korean Gugak Festival ‘Green Field for a Young Future’ as the music director.

Lee worked as a director and conductor for Gwangju Municipal Gugak Orchestra. He is currently working as the music director and conductor of Hanbat Gugak Orchestra and a faculty member at Mokwon University. His recording releases include CDs on Ajaeng Sanjo, produced by Köln Broadcasting, Germany, Lee Tae-baek Ajaeng Sanjo, and Ajaeng’s Unwinding and Winding Sound.

Hyeun-Bin Lim, pansori
Hyun-Bin Lim is a master pansori singer whose style is characterized by coarse vocal and brilliant witticism. He performed as a main singer in many changgeuk (modern theater play based on pansori) works such as Chunhyang, Sanbul, and Romeo and Juliet.

Lim was awarded the Grand Prize at the Heunghuje Pansori Competition in 1993, the Gold Prize at Donga Gugak Competition in 1995, and the Presidential Prize at Chunhyang Gugak Daejeon in 2011. He was also trained for Gosu (drum accompaniment to pansori), and won the Grand Prize in National Gosu Competition in 1999, Presidential Prize in Haenam Gosu Competition in 2012, and Grand Prize in Pansori in KBS Gugak Competition in 2017.

Lim was a member of the National Theater of Korea Changgeuk, and is currently a member of Namwon Municipal Gugak Company and also a faculty member of Mokwon University’s Korean Music Department.

Michael Ryan, ballet
Michael Ryan began his dance training at the Ballet Academy of Texas. In 2006, he was invited to train at Orlando Ballet School on scholarship under the direction of Peter Stark. Ryan continued his dance training at Houston Ballet Academy, where he was honored with the Houston Ballet Academy Award for a Promising Future and Commitment to the Art Form.

In 2012, Ryan joined Houston Ballet II, where he had the opportunity to study under the direction of Claudio Muñoz, Sabrina Lenzi, and Andrew Murphy. He was invited to perform as a guest artist at the 2013 AICD International Ballet Awards in Australia. The same year, he was invited to participate in the Assemblée International in Canada. Additionally, with Houston Ballet II, he performed as a guest artist for the 2013 Prix de Lausanne Interlude. In 2014, Ryan was a finalist at the Prix de Lausanne, after which he joined Houston Ballet. He has had the opportunity to work with many renowned choreographers such as John Neumeier, Wayne McGregor, Ben Stevenson, Mark Morris, and Stanton Welch, among others. Ryan joined Boston Ballet as an Artist of the Company in 2017.
**Wan-Chul Won, daegeum**

A critic commented that “Won’s low, soft and deep daegeum sound calms down our minds, as if it is stirring up a mysterious happening. I feel like becoming a wild goose flying in the sky when listening to his music.” Won was awarded the Grand Prize for instruments at Jeonju Daesaseup Competition in 1999, ‘Best Young Artist’ by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in 2004, and Presidential Prize at National Gugak Competition in 2006. His repertoire ranges from traditional music of sanjo and sinawi (improvisation from shaman music) to accompaniments for folk songs and dances. Won is currently the head of Folk Music Ensemble at the National Gugak Center. He has released seven CDs, including Daegeum Sanjo and Daegeum Jeongak. In 2014, he created his own style of sogeum (small transverse bamboo flute) sanjo by modifying the instrument and developing breathing techniques.

**Ji-Young Yi, gayageum**

Ji-Young Yi’s musical spectrum ranges from the very traditional to the very avant-garde. She began to learn Korean traditional performing arts such as gayageum, traditional song, and dance at the age of five. Her musical experience of Korean traditional arts with Korean traditional teaching method from the young age made her perform the most traditional music. She earned the very first Ph.D. degree in gayageum performance in Korean music history from Ewha Women’s University and she was a notable soloist of the National Gugak Center. She is a Candidate for Important Intangible Cultural Property No. 23, gayageum sanjo (solo instrumental folk genre) and gayageum byeongchang (folk song singing accompanied by gayageum). Since her professional debut, Ms. Yi has performed numerous solo recitals in Korea, the U.S., Germany, Hong Kong, Sweden and many other countries. She has performed with numerous world-renowned orchestras and ensembles and she has been the most frequently invited Korean musician at international music festivals including the Edinburgh Festival, MIDEM, Classical: Next, etc. In the year of 2003, Ms. Yi was awarded The Best Young Musician Award by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Korea. She formerly served as a professor of Gayageum Performance in the Department of Korean Music in the College of Music at Seoul National University.

**Korean Traditional Dance Group, three-drums dance**