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 한국문화원 Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles	<b>Press Release</b>		 PyeongChang 2018™  PyeongChang 2018™ PARALYMPIC GAMES
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## ARI PROJECT: Performing Arts The Seoul of LA

*featuring Ok-soo Heo and Suk-jong Lee from Seoul  
with the LA-based Latin Folk Ensemble "CUNAO"*



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- ▶ Title : ARI PROJECT: Performing Arts "The Seoul of LA"
  - ▶ Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 at 7:30pm
  - ▶ Place: Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles 3rd Fl. Ari Hall
  - ▶ Presenters : Korean Cultural Center, LA (KCCLA) &  
Latin Folk Ensemble "CUNAO"
  - ▶ Online Reservation : [www.kccla.org](http://www.kccla.org)
  - ▶ For more Info: [tammy@kccla.org](mailto:tammy@kccla.org) or 323-936-3015 Tammy Chung
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**The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA) and Latin Folk Ensemble "CUNAO"** will present a special performance, **"The Seoul of LA"**, on Friday, January 19, 2018 at 7:30P.M. on the 3rd floor of the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles in the Ari Hall.

Geomungo is a traditional Korean string instrument that has yet to earn its recognition it deserves by the Korean-American community and by the American mainstream society. By highlighting the depth and versatile sounds of Geomungo as a jazz piece, the Los Angeles audience will have a greater understanding of and appreciation for the Korean music.

An original composition of this concert will highlight the depth and beauty of Korea's Geomungo as a versatile and experimental instrument. The main program will be accompanied by a set of lively Latin Folk music by Cuñao. The audience will have a full spectrum of traditional sounds, experimental jazz and fun Latin folk music!

This concert will showcase original music compositions written by Dr. Severin Behnen in collaboration with Ik-Soo Heo. Geomungo Jazz Trio as the main piece of the performance will include a geomungo player, a jazz pianist and a percussionist. This performance will also feature a set of lively Latin folk music of Cuñao (6-member group).

Participating artists include Dr. Severin Behnen (Artistic Director) and members of Latin Folk Ensemble "Cuñao from Los Angeles, Ik-soo Heo (Geomungo player), Suk-jong Lee (Janggo Player), who came from Korea, and they are all joining together in LA for this special performance.

As a senior member of the Gyeonggi Provincial Traditional Music Orchestra, Ik-Soo Heo has been exploring new ways of defining a unique blend of the classical Geomungo music enhanced with a mix of contemporary instrumentals. Heo has worked with a number of distinguished composers such as Thomas Osborne (University of Hawaii), Keiko Harada (Tokyo University), Seung Won Oh (DePaul University) and Severin Behnen (American Jazz Pianist & Composer) to create critically acclaimed original Geomungo music pieces. Heo seeks to preserve the timeless and innate beauty of the traditional Geomungo music while taking the traditional sound to a new realm by lending his own artistic sensibilities to the contemporary composers he works with. Heo is thus recognized as a cutting-edge Geomungo player in Korea whose vision is paving a path for new experiments and new dimensions to emerge within the classical

Geomungo music.

The Artistic Director, Dr. Severin Behnen is an acclaimed American Jazz composer and pianist who brings over 30 years of music career as a musician/composer/teacher in jazz, folk, blue-grass, classical and new music ensembles. Behnen has written numerous scores for jazz ensembles, bands, orchestra and large theater productions. He is an active member of Cuñao. Since meeting Ik-Soo Heo in 2010, Behnen has composed two major Geomungo concert pieces entitled The Silver Hand (2012) and The Constant and the Variable (2011-12), both of which have been performed at the Seoul Arts Center, Korea.

*\*This performance is presented as a part of the Korean Cultural Center's ARI PROJECT Season: Performing arts series, which features a rich program of various performing arts programs including Korean traditional music and dance, modern fusion world music, Jazz, royal court tea ceremonies, puppet shows as well as theater.*

## **-PROGRAM-**

Solo Geomungo  
Ik-soo, Suk-jong

Mori  
Suk-jong

Gong-gam (Sympathy)  
Ik-soo, Suk-jong, Severin

Refugee Blues  
Ik-soo, Suk-jong, Severin, Michael

Mask of Memory  
Ik-soo, Suk-jong, Severin, Michael, Craig, Isaac

Trio for Percussion  
Craig, Isaac, and Suk-jong

ZeroOne (animated)  
An animated score in four parts: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall  
Ik-soo, Suk-jong, Severin, Josel, Michael

Quien Sera Gnosienne?  
Cuñao, Ik-soo, Suk-jong

Saana  
Cuñao, Ik-soo, Suk-jong

Gaitan  
Cuñao, Ik-soo, Suk-jong

El Llano  
All performers

※ *The program is subject to change without notice.*

### **<Performers>**

Ik-soo Heo - Geomungo

Suk-jong Lee - Janggo

Michael Saucier - Bass

Cuñao

Severin Behnen - Accordion, Keyboard, Vocals

Josel Cruz - Bass, Synth, Vocals

Julio Montero - Guitar, Synth, Vocals

Gabriel Ramirez-Ortiz - Violin, Percussion, Vocals

Isaac "El Rabioso" Rodriguez - Percussion, Bongos

Craig Shields - Cajon, Percussion, Vocals



**Latin Folk Ensemble**  
**CUÑAO**

**허익수**  
**Ik-soo Heo**  
Geomungo

**이석종**  
**Suk-jong Lee**  
janggo

**Dr. Severin Behnen**  
Artistic Director

### **Dr. Severin Behnen**

Dr. Severin Behnen is an acclaimed American Jazz composer and pianist with over 30 years of music career as a musician/composer/teacher in jazz, folk, blue-grass, classical and new music ensembles. Behnen has written numerous scores for jazz ensembles, bands, orchestra and large theater productions. He is an active member of Cuñao. Since meeting Ik-Soo Heo in 2010 Behnen has composed two major Geomungo concert pieces entitled The Silver Hand (2012) and The Constant and the Variable (2011-12), both of which have been performed at the Seoul Arts Center, Korea.

### **Latin Folk Ensemble "Cuñao"**

Cuñao is a Los Angeles-based, Latin Folk group. They use their South American background & influences to create evocative, poetic songs that transcend time and leave listeners with lush images. A group of multi-ethnic musicians, Cuñao puts a global twist on their Latin sound by exploring African rhythms, Eastern European melodies and American Rock aesthetics. The group has performed at various venues in Los Angeles, NYC and Philadelphia.

### **Heo Ik-soo**

As a senior member of the Gyeonggi Provincial Traditional Music Orchestra. Ik-Soo Heo has been exploring new ways of defining a unique blend of the classical Geomungo music enhanced with a mix of contemporary instrumentals. Heo has worked with a number of distinguished composers such as Thomas Osborne (University of Hawaii), Keiko Harada (Tokyo University), Seung Won Oh (DePaul University) and Severin Behnen (American Jazz Pianist & Composer) to create critically acclaimed original Geomungo music pieces. Heo seeks to preserve the timeless and innate beauty of the traditional Geomungo music while taking the traditional sound to a new realm by lending his own artistic sensibilities to the contemporary composers he works with. Heo is thus recognized as a cutting-edge Geomungo player in Korea whose vision is paving a path for new experiments and new dimensions to emerge within the classical Geomungo music.