

Sejong Music Competition

The third annual Sejong Music Competition was held at the University of Illinois at Chicago on November 19, 2006. In addition to one piece of their own choice, all contestants were required to play a piece containing a Korean theme. Judges include Brant Taylor (Chicago Symphony Orchestra), Ken Olsen (Chicago Symphony Orchestra), Stefan Hersch (Calisto Ensemble), Kyung Sun Lee (University of Houston), Robert Waters (Jupiter Trio), Brenda Huang (Music Institute of Chicago), Sylvia Belsky (University of Chicago). Winners were Siwoo Kim (violin senior, 17 yr, Westerville, OH), Sean Yeh (piano senior, 15 yr, Libertyville, IL), Mindy Park (cello senior, 16 yr, Palatine, IL), Laura Park (violin junior, 12 yr, Palatine, IL), and Lauren Eun Kim (piano junior, 11 yr, Bannockburn, IL). Winners concert was held at the Ganz Hall (Roosevelt University) in Chicago in January 2007. Highlights of the winners concert was broadcast on Korean language TV, WOCH (Channel 28) in February 2007. Please visit our website www.SejongSociety.org to view excerpt video clips from the Winners recital and read about the judges and winners.



This competition was a collaborative project with the Korea Times Chicago and was co-sponsored by the Seoul National University Alumni Association of Chicago. This program was in part supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

Planning Committee: Eugenia Wie (Chair), So Jung Hong (Judson College, Elgin, IL), Soo Young Lee, and Sang Mee Lee (both at the Music Institute of Chicago, Winnetka, IL).



2007 Sejong Writing Competition

The goals of the Sejong Writing Competition are to discover talented children and young adults in writing and to encourage them to write about Korea. Through this writing competition we hope to promote awareness and understanding of Korea's cultural heritage among our young generations growing up in United States. The organizational goal is to promote harmony among people of various ethnic backgrounds and to bridge Asian and western culture through our programs.

◆ This competition is open to all pre-college students residing in the US regardless of their ethnic background.

◆ Submission Deadline is April 30, 2007

◆ The essay must be written in English on one of the following topics:

1. My most influential encounter with Korean Culture
2. Walking in two cultures, Korean and American
3. Building bridges between the generations (i.e., the relationship between 1st generation Korean-Americans and 1.5 and 2nd generation Korean-Americans or adoptees)

◆ Prize: Seniors(grade 9-12):\$600 (1st), \$400 (2nd), \$200 (3rd); Juniors (≤ grade 8th) \$300 (1st), \$200 (2nd), \$100 (3rd).

Please visit www.SejongSociety.org for detail rules. Winners' works may be published on the Korea Times Chicago, Korean Quarterly, and as a bound book. Korea Times is a special sponsor of this competition. This program is co-sponsored by the Korean Quarterly and Seoul National University Alumni Association. 2006 Sejong Writing Competition winners' bio and essays and judges' bio are on our website www.SejongSociety.org.

Planning committee ; Hans Insu Fenkl (Chair, Author/Faculty, State University of New York at New Paltz, NY), Christopher Park (Lawyer, former editorial board of the Harvard Law Review, New York, NY), John Cadwall (English Department Chair, New Trier High School, Winnetka IL), David Whitney (Physician, Barrington, IL). Judges name and bio will be announced after announcement of winners on our website and the Korea Times Chicago.



Korean-American Music Composition Competition

The primary mission of this competition was to disseminate Korean cultural heritage to younger generations growing up in the USA. Through the competition, we aim to expand the repertoire of original music containing Korean themes, creating a collection of high caliber works that can be performed by young music students at the Sejong Music Competition and other musical venues. We invited composers to submit original pieces incorporating traditional Korean themes written for western musical instruments and suitable for young student performers. We hope such music will stimulate interest in Korean heritage and cultivate cultural identity among Korean descendants living in foreign countries. We received 52 entries from Korea, US, and Europe. Winners are Jean Ahn (Nil-Lili for piano solo; 1st prize, USA), Jeong Kyu Park (Toad for violin solo; 1st prize, Korea), and Sung Joo Hong (Bell Flower for piano solo; 3rd prize, USA). Honorable mention include David Jones (Eemulnori for violin; USA), Soonmee Kahng (Petit suite for cello solo; USA), and Dae-Sung Kim (Chang-gu Nori for piano solo; Korea). This competition was a collaborative project with the Korea Times Chicago and is co-sponsored by the Whitney and Chyu Family Fund and the Seoul National University Alumni Association of Chicago. Next competition will be held in 2008.

East Meets West: Music with Korean Themes:

In The Spirit of Silk Road (Aug 19, 2006. Ganz Hall at the Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL) This Concert showcased music of the winners of the 2005 Korean-American Music Composition Competition and other leading Korean Composers. Performers included internationally acclaimed musicians, Desiree Ruhstrat, David Cunliffe, Sel Kardan, John Bruce Yeh, Yumi Hwang-Williams and others. This program was presented as a part of Chicago citywide program, "In the Spirit of the Silk Road, Summer in Chicago 2006". This program concept arose when Yo-Yo Ma visited Chicago and identified our city as the place that uniquely represents the interconnectedness of the world's cultures. This concert is sponsored by the Whitney-Chyu Family Fund.

Our Mission

The Sejong Cultural Society was formed to advance awareness and understanding of Korea's cultural heritage among people in the United States. Our emphasis is on presenting contemporary music, literature, and fine arts utilizing traditional Korean themes but expressed through western media. The major target audience of our program is children in the United States growing up in a multicultural and multiethnic society. We aim to promote harmony among people of various ethnic backgrounds and to bridge Asian and western culture through our programs.

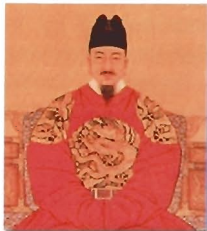
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About King Sejong the Great (1397-1450)



The name "Sejong" was chosen to honor King Sejong the Great for his humanity, vision, love for his people and his contribution to Korean culture. King Sejong the Great was the fourth ruler of the Chosun Dynasty of Korea. Under his guidance the Korean alphabet was created. He also invented the rain gauge, striking water clocks, and the sundial. He established the Hall of Worthies (집현전; 集賢殿; Jiphyeonjeon) and gathered scholars from around Korea. These scholars compiled books on various topics including poetry, music, medicine and meteorology. He made improvement in the movable metal type for printing that had been invented in

Korea around 1234 (200 years before Gutenberg's invention of printing in Europe). He initiated the development of musical notation for Korean and Chinese music. Sejong was a writer and composer. He composed Yongbi eocheon ga ("Songs of Flying Dragons"), Wol-in cheon-gang jigok ("Songs of the Moon Shining on a Thousand Rivers").

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