

## **“Korean Voices” BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION for 9/23/24 GCSU Program**

Internationally acclaimed **performing-scholar and voice teacher Dr. Kyoung Cho**, renowned for her exceptional vocal artistry, is an internationally acclaimed Korean soprano and serves as Professor of Voice and Head of the USF Voice Program. Praised by critics for performances described as "sublimely beautiful, transcendent, serene, dazzling, and heavenly," and noted for her "refined tone color and dignified sound that effectively touches the heart," Dr. Cho is renowned for her exceptional vocal artistry.

Her extensive performance history includes collaborations with prestigious organizations such as the Haydn Festspiele in Eisenstadt Austria, Komische Kammer Oper Munich in Germany, Slovak State Opera in Slovakia, The Oltenia State Philharmonic Orchestra in Hungary, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra & Gyeongbuk Provincial Symphony Orchestra in Korea, Il Clavicembalo Verde Concert Series in Milan Italy, Washington Concert Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Opera Birmingham, New Jersey Verismo Opera, Yale Opera, Yale Glee Club/Orchestra, The Hartt Opera Theater, Connecticut Virtuosi Orchestra, New Britain Chorale/Orchestra, Waterbury Symphony, Boston University Chamber Orchestra, Lawrence University Chorus/Orchestra, Cedar Falls/Waterloo Symphony, and Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus & Orchestra. Dr. Cho has also performed at the Israel International Vocal Institute with Maestro Paul Nadler and Maestra Joan Dornemann of The Metropolitan Opera.

Since joining USF in 2007, Dr. Cho has received twenty-six prestigious research and teaching grants, including the Faculty Research Award from the Women in Leadership Philanthropy (WLP) Program at the University of South Florida for the “Korean Art Song CD by Leading Korean Women Composers Project,” and a Certificate of Global Achievement from USF in 2016. Dr. Cho’s repertoire spans oratorio and opera. She has performed major works such as Brahms' Requiem, Mozart Requiem, Saint-Saëns' Christmas Oratorio, John Rutter’s Requiem, Fauré Requiem, Mozart C minor Mass, Bach's Magnificat, Messiah, and The Creation. In opera, she has portrayed roles including Violetta, Mimi, Liù, Gretel, Pamina, Fiordiligi, Antonia, Donna Anna, Susanna & Contessa, and Cio-Cio San.

A leading advocate for Korean vocal music, Dr. Cho is a prominent performing scholar in this genre. Her expertise in Korean Art Songs is internationally recognized, and she was featured in an interview on WCNY-FM 91.3, New York NPR classical music station’s “Vocal Point,” to introduce Korean Art Songs and Folk Songs. Her CD recordings, released by Centaur Records, North/South Recordings, and SonArt Records, have received critical acclaim. Her recent CD, Korean Tapestry: Korean Art Songs by Leading Korean Women Composers, released in 2023 by Naxos Records, earned the Silver Medal from the Global Music Awards. Dr. Cho also co-authored Technique for Classical Singers: A Practical Guide with renowned physician and an avid singer, Dr. Divya-Devi Joshi in 2024.

In addition to her achievements as a performer and scholar, Dr. Cho is a distinguished voice teacher and vocal pedagogue. Her former students have been accepted into esteemed institutions such as the Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, Eastman School of Music, Peabody Conservatory, and Yale University, and have pursued successful careers in performance and university teaching. She has served as Artist Faculty at the Vianden International Music Festival & Nei Stëmmen International Vocal Institute in Luxembourg, CMS Vienna Europe Vocal Camp, Assisi International Music Festival, and Yanbian University in China. Dr. Cho has conducted master classes and delivered solo performances in numerous countries, including Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, France, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Israel, Serbia,

Kazakhstan, China, Korea, Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, Canada, and the United States, performing at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City.

Dr. Cho holds a B.M. in voice from Yonsei University, an M.M. from the Manhattan School of Music, and pursued post-graduate studies in opera performance at Yale University. She completed her DMA at the University of Memphis, where she was a Hohenberg-Scheidt Opera Fellow. Before joining USF, she taught at the State University of New York at Fredonia and Luther College in Iowa.

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Korean-Canadian **Bass Won Cho** is a sought-after performer in both concert and operatic repertoires worldwide. Renowned for the unique range and beauty of his voice, combined with his outstanding acting ability and commanding stage presence, Dr. Cho has graced the stages of leading opera houses and orchestras across the U.S., Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and his native Korea. Critics have praised his performances as “expertly played with deep tones that vibrate the seats,” noting that “one wished the score let him sing his overcoat aria twice,” and highlighting his “deep resonant mellifluous sound” and “grave, classic beauty.” His voice has been described as “a particularly dark, melodic yet rafter-ringing bass that is worth the price of admission all by itself.”

Career highlights include his debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City as a bass soloist in Mozart's Requiem, Don Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in various locations including New York, Alaska, Florida, and Montana, and as Colline in *La bohème*, Osmin in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, and both Commendatore and Leporello in *Don Giovanni*. He made his Mexican debut in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra. Other significant performances include Beethoven's Mass in C and Bruckner's *Te Deum* with the Palm Beach Symphony, over 20 engagements of *Messiah*, and performances of Mozart's Requiem in Korea, Brahms' Requiem in New York and Florida, *The Creation* in Toronto, *Missa Solemnis* and *Lord Nelson Mass* at Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria, and a Bach Cantata with The Florida Orchestra. His recital appearances span Korea, China, Cambodia, Thailand, Luxembourg, France, Italy, and several U.S. cities.

Dr. Cho has received numerous accolades, including 3rd prize at the 31st Vincenzo Bellini International Opera Competition in Italy, where Dame Joan Sutherland served as chair adjudicator, 1st prize at The Artist International Music Competition in Toronto, and recognition as a Regional Finalist at The Metropolitan Opera's National Council Audition.

In recent years, Dr. Cho's performances have taken him to Montana, Georgia, California, Palm Beach, Miami, Tampa, Orlando, Birmingham, Nashville, Anchorage, Luxembourg, France, China, Cambodia, Thailand, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Austria, and Korea. His recent solo engagements include *Turandot* with Opera Naples in Florida, *Messiah* and Bach's *Magnificat* with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, *Così fan tutte*, *Roméo et Juliette*, and *Madama Butterfly* with Opera Tampa, as well as *Roméo et Juliette*, *Rigoletto*, *Hamlet*, *Die Zauberflöte*, and *La bohème* with Opera Birmingham. Additionally, he performed the role of Makoto Kobayashi in *An American Dream* with Opera Idaho, and appeared in concerts in Korea, China, Germany, and Italy.

Dr. Cho began his vocal training at the University of Western Ontario and Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada, earning degrees from the Manhattan School of Music, Boston University, and the University of Memphis. An accomplished voice teacher and opera director, he has directed and produced over 30 operas and opera scenes. His teaching credentials include positions as Artist-Faculty at the Vianden International Music Festival & Nei Stëmmen International Voice Institute in Luxembourg, the Assisi International Music Festival, and Yanbian University in China, along with master classes in 8 countries and 10 U.S. states. He has served on the faculty at the University of Northern Iowa (Voice), the State University of New York in Fredonia (Voice/Opera), the University of South Florida (Voice/Opera), and is currently an Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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Pianist **Hue Jang** has been noted for her insight and passion in both her solo and collaborative performances. She has presented solo performances at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and other world-class venues in Europe, Asia, and throughout the US. Her Seoul Arts Center debut recital was reviewed in *The Piano*, a major music magazine in Korea, and described as a "... performance in complete harmony, along with Jang's elegant and confident intuition, perfect technique, noble, and intellectual expression." Her live performances have been broadcasted on WIN-TV Chicago News 24, the University of Illinois radio station WILL, and from Valdosta State University.

Dr. Jang's collaborations include performances with the Azalea String Quartet and piano duet partner Dr. Reid Alexander. Additionally, she gained substantial experience in opera coaching and accompanying with Carlos Montané and Maestro Ubaldo Gardini, ensemble coaching with Ian Hobson, Dennis Helmrich and Sibbi Bernhardsson, and master classes with Vladimir Feltsman, Ursula Oppens, and Boaz Sharon, among others.

Dr. Jang published her article "Apex by Sukhi Kang: Cultural Differences Reflected in Performance Practice" in the *Korean Dalcroze Journal*, and presented her doctoral thesis research on the piano music of Sukhi Kang and Chul-Ik Hwang at the annual Conference of the Illinois State Music Teachers Association. As a member of MTNA and a dedicated teacher, she regularly adjudicates auditions and competitions, and gives lectures and invited talks at universities, conferences, and seminars. She also contributed to Sekwang Publishing's Korean translation of the widely used *Piano Repertoire Guide: Intermediate and Advanced Literature* by Cathy Albergo and Reid Alexander (Stipes, 2011).

Dr. Jang is currently a staff pianist and piano instructor at Georgia College. She previously served as a member of the music faculties at Valdosta State University in Georgia, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Millikin University in Illinois. She received her D.M.A. in piano performance and literature and second M.M. in piano pedagogy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, M.M. in piano performance and post-graduate Performance Certificate from DePaul University in Chicago, and B.M. from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. Her most influential teachers include Ian Hobson, Reid Alexander, Eteri Andjaparidze, Dmitry Paperno, and Edward Auer.