

gamin: Nong



Sunday, December 4, 2022

8:00 pm

\$25 advance \$30 doors \$20 Student/Senior (door only w/
ID, Senior 65+) doors 7pm

BUY TICKETS

<https://roulette.org/event/gamin-nong/>

Nong is an ancient Korean term meaning “to play”—here, the joy of discovering new ways of playing when different cultures intersect. gamin, a Korean-born NYC-based multi-instrumentalist specializing in traditional Korean wind, along with her collaborators, places instruments and concepts from traditional Korean music alongside a variety of American musical elements.

On the program, Theodore Wiprud’s *Mudang* for Piri (a double-reed bamboo oboe) incorporates shamanic energy that ranges from meditation to ecstasy. Korean composer Yoon-Ji Lee dedicates her composition to ‘comfort women’ (victims of human trafficking throughout Japan-occupied East Asia, 1932-1945) in her work for taepyeongso (a double-reed shawn) and strings. Works by William David Cooper weave Western string instruments with Korean winds, incorporating folk tunes and different tuning systems. Nathan Schram, Brooklyn-based composer and GRAMMY-winning violist, highlights the organic, almost guttural expressions with an immovable, spacious rhythmic underpinning of Korean traditional music. Mexico-born, France-based composer Alejandro Mata’s independent research into Korean heritage, music, and history has deeply influenced his innovative new composition for saenghwang (Korean mouth-organ) and string quartet, and gamin’s composition broadens the range of the new musical realm with her traditional improvisatory ideas of Korean folk music.

With Nong, gamin and her collaborators—NY-based multicultural ensemble INTERWOVEN and electronic sound artist Yoon-Ji Lee—hope to diversify American audiences’ aesthetic understanding of East Asia, which is all too often painted in broad strokes. The musicians from South Korea, Taiwan, China and Japan will weave their sounds together in hopes that their collaboration would inspire peaceful and harmonious relationships amongst the North Eastern Asian countries despite their tumultuous history, as well as to inspire new generations of American composers and musicians to embrace the inherent multiculturalism of American music by bringing their crafts with rich traditions from around the world, and approach music-making with the distinct goal of bridging cultural divides.

ARTISTS

gamin, Korean winds
Keiko Tokunaga, Violin
Hyeyung Sol Yoon, Violin
Andy Weiyun Lin, Viola
Yi Qun Xu, Cello



gamin

Gamin Kang, known simply as “gamin,” composer, multi-instrumentalist, improviser, distinguished soloist, tours the world performing traditional Korean music and cross-disciplinary collaborations. gamin is a designated Yisuja, official holder of Important Intangible Cultural Asset No. 46 for Piri (double-reed oboe) music.

Re-inventing new sonorities from ancient, somewhat restrictive, musical systems, gamin has collaborated with world-acclaimed musicians Jane Ira Bloom, Laurie Anderson, Jen Shyu, Elliot Sharp, presented at Roulette Theater, New School, and Metropolitan Museum, NYC. As an ongoing collaborative Artist with the Silkroad Project, gamin was featured artist in Seoul, 2018, performing on-stage with founder Yo-Yo Ma.

As a mostly self-taught composer, gamin’s style is grounded on her eclectic background, western classical music, Korean shamanic ritual music, and NY avant-garde experimental music scene. She has created inter-cultural music performances free of western notation, that highlight her unique contemporary-traditional identity, resulting in a structured improvisation.

gamin's solo composition with a graphic score, 'The Stars,' a saenghwang piece, premiered at Hwanki Arts Museum, as part of Performing Arts Market in Seoul 2013, and 37 pipes sheng solo, 'The One', premiered at 'Korea meets Freiburg', at Schneider Stiftung Hall, Freiburg. For the ensemble, Korean folk music and jazz-inflected compositions, 'The Strangers', commissioned by Korean Cultural Festival Boston in 2018. 'Jungmori Blues', co-composed with Ned Rothenberg, acclaimed sax and clarinet performer, premiered at Asia Society for NY Sanjo festival. This piece was released on gamin's album 'Nong' by Innova, 2020. Her recent work, 'Sunset Cloud' for intercultural ensemble, premiered 'Peace for Man & Nature' concert at Space Godo, Korean Culture Center, Berlin, 2019.

Currently, gamin is resident artist at HERE Arts Center, and Jerome Hill Fellowship composer 2021-22. Her newest creations are works in progress. gamin's Carnegie Hall debut as featured soloist, accompanied by Orchestra of Korea, scheduled for March 2020, was postponed for Covid.

INTERWOVEN

INTERWOVEN is an intercultural ensemble that celebrates and integrates traditional Asian music and Western classical music through performing, commissioning, and recording contemporary works. Exploring the time-honored soundscapes of Asia and Europe, the ensemble weaves together musical and artistic threads that represent diverse origins, traditions, and materials to create something holistic. By intertwining unique Asian perspectives and aesthetics into its artistic and organizational work, INTERWOVEN encourages union between various American communities through the Asian culture's emphasis on organic inclusion and harmony; a principle that is needed in this time of division.

The ensemble made its debut in October 2021 at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music in New York City, with the funding from the City Artist Corps Grant. Since then, the group made appearances as guest artists at Chinatown Arts Week (NYC) and Kansas University Asian Classical Music Initiative. INTERWOVEN is one of the featured artists at the Center for Remembering and Sharing in New York City during the 2022-23 season, presenting its original series "AMI" at the prize-winning White Room near Union Square.

Founder and GRAMMY Award winning violinist, Keiko Tokunaga, brings together seasoned musicians who have been heard in major halls, such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Radio City Music Hall, and their equivalents in Europe, Asia, South America, and Australia. Members of INTERWOVEN are passionate advocates for the importance of music in social, personal, and political developments, and devote much of their time to teaching and educational outreach. The ensemble collaborates with educational institutions such as the Longy School of Music to promote the creations of multicultural musical compositions, and to encourage active dialogues between students, faculty and the community on socially crucial topics such as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the music field.

COMPOSERS

Theodore Wiprud composes music for orchestras, ensembles, and voice. He was Music Alive Composer-in-Residence with the South Dakota Symphony in 2018-19, following 14 years as Vice President for Education at the New York Philharmonic. Recent orchestral works include *Wind of Many Voices* (2018), responding to the landscapes, people, and history of South Dakota, and *Sinfonietta* (2016), inspired by the Persian poet Hafez. His Violin Concerto (*Katrina*) (2014), reflecting on the hurricane's impact on the musical cultures of the Mississippi Delta, was recorded by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and dedicatee Ittai Shapira.

His catalog of chamber works includes string quartets, works for piano and strings, works including saxophone, and an innovative recent series of works incorporating Korean traditional instruments with string quartet. His *Mysteria* (2021), for percussion with string quartet, was commissioned by Chamber Music America for Ian David Rosenbaum and the Borromeo String Quartet. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he has also composed the *Well-Tempered Quarantine*, 12 preludes and fugues paying homage to JS Bach, and recorded them for his YouTube channel.

Hailed by the San Francisco Chronicle for his richly soaring vocal lines, **William David Cooper** is the composer of three operas, and music for orchestra, chamber ensembles, Baroque instruments, chorus, film, and dance. His operas have been performed by Fort Worth Opera, West Edge Opera, and the National Opera Association, among others. His music has also been performed by Augustin Hadelich, Liza Stepanova, The New York Virtuoso Singers, C4, Antico Moderno, Splinter Reeds, the Lysander Trio, ECCE Ensemble, the Calder Quartet, the Slee Sinfonietta, and the Juilliard Orchestra. An alumnus of UC Davis and the Juilliard School, Cooper serves on the faculty of the Walnut Hill School for the Arts, and as organist and choir master at St. James Episcopal Church in New London, CT.

Yoon-Ji Lee is a Korean composer based in Boston and New York. She has been creating music based on non-linear structure with a powerful focus on quickly juxtaposing disparate elements through the rapid transformation in both acoustic and electroacoustic mediums. Her works have been engaged with visual arts, dance, literature and intercultural influences. Lee's chamber and electronic music have been performed in Korea and around the U.S., by ensembles including JACK Quartet, MIVOS Quartet, Argento Ensemble, International Contemporary Ensemble, Kammerensemble Neue Musik Berlin, Talea Ensemble, ensemble mise-en, and many others. Lee received Mass Cultural Council's Artist Fellowship, the Jane Geuting Camp Fellowship from Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Patsy Lu Award from International Alliance of Women in Music, and the Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship from NYU. Lee has participated in artist residencies at National Sawdust, Atlantic Center for the Arts, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts. Lee earned her PhD at NYU and did her Masters/GD at New England Conservatory. Lee is Currently Assistant Professor at Berklee College of Music.

Born in Mexico (1990) and living in France since 2012. **Alejandro Mata** studied in music institutions such as l'École Normale de Musique de Paris and the Haute École des Arts du Rhin/Conservatoire de Strasbourg with composers Daniel D'Adamo, Edith Lejet, and Tom Mays, and has received classes and advices from composers like Ramón Lazkano, Gérard Pesson, and Clemens Gadenstätter in numerous music festivals.

His music has been played in more than 17 countries by important music ensembles such as the Klangforum Wien, Quatuor Béla, United Instruments of Lucilin, Quasars Ensemble, and the Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble.

Recipient of numerous scholarships in France, Luxembourg, and Mexico, he has received as well commissions from soloists, ensembles, and musical institutions to create new works. Alejandro has also won four composition prizes in international competitions in Europe.

His musical aesthetics and thinking derives from french spectralism, which has been one of his biggest musical influences, being timbre and a harmonic finesse a constant priority in his compositions.

Regarded by the New York Times as an “elegant soloist” with a sound “devotional with its liquid intensity,” **Nathan Schram** is a GRAMMY Award-winning composer and violist of the Attacca Quartet. Nathan has collaborated, in the studio and on stage, with many of the great artists of today including Björk, James Blake, Sting, David Crosby, Becca Stevens, David Byrne, Just Blaze, Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell and others. Nathan is a PhD student in composition at Princeton University and an Honorary Ambassador to the city of Chuncheon, South Korea.

Nathan's first solo record of original compositions, *Oak and the Ghost*, was released on New Amsterdam Records and heavily featured various electronic instruments and the players of his beloved Attacca Quartet. As a member of Attacca, Schram has released records on Sony Classical, GroundUP Music, Nonesuch, and New Amsterdam Records. Attacca's record, *Orange*, won the GRAMMY Award for Best Chamber Music Performance in 2020.

Apart from performing, Nathan is the Founder and Artistic Director of Musicambia. Founded in 2013, Musicambia develops music education programs and performances inside prisons and jails throughout the United States. Through working closely with incarcerated people on songwriting, performing, instrument lessons, and music theory, our musicians cultivate artistic communities that nurture the humanity of all involved. Musicambia currently runs a music conservatory in Sing Sing Correctional Facility and Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in New York with other programs in New York City, California, Kansas, and South Carolina. In addition to their work in the U.S., Musicambia has collaborated with projects in Venezuela and Scotland.