

In Advance of Japan Festival

Preview Concert Held for S-N Joint Music Performance

A preview concert took place in Seoul last night at the Seoul Arts Center in advance of the South-North Korean joint music performance scheduled for next week in a coastal city of Japan.

The projected joint concert in Fukui is the first overseas concert jointly staged by South and North Korean musicians. It is part of the Pan-Japan Sea International Festival bringing South and North Korean, Chinese, Soviet and Japanese artists together on May 2-5 under the sponsorship of the Fukui city government and the NHK.

Yesterday's preview concert kicked off with music from the Pukchong Lion's Dance exclusively arranged for an instrumental orchestra, which was followed by a concerto for taegum flute.

Park Pom-hun, a leading composer in the mode of traditional music, conducted the Chungang Traditional Music Orchestra in his own concerto for four percussive instruments and another of his concertos on a theme of "Arirang."

The concerto for percussions featured Kim Tok-su's Samul-nori quartet in the first, third and fourth movements whereas Kuk Soo-ho staged "A Divine Dance," a deviation for "A Divine Comedy at Mt. Paektu" he choreographed for the Seoul Arts Troupe last November, in the second movement aided by the orchestral music and pansori singer Shin Yong-hi's humming.

In Fukui the "Arirang" Concerto will be played by a combined orchestra of 50 musicians each from the Chungang ensemble and the Mansudae Art Troupe of Pyongyang. This piece interweaves different versions of Arirang over an orchestral and mixed chorus structure.

Pyongyang musicians received Park's original score in February relayed by the NHK, and sent it back with supplemented transcription for uniquely North Korean instruments.

The projected international festival in Fukui will introduce musicians and dancers from five countries, South and North Korea, Japan, China and the Soviet Union for four days.

It is an expanded sequel to two concerts held in Seoul in 1989 and in Japan in 1990 under co-aegis of the Korean, Japanese and Chinese music composers with their root in the ethnomusic.

Orchestras representing each country interpreted the music written by the composers of two other countries as well as their own music in the past concerts.

There will be a warmup concert in Fukui on May 2 jointly participated in by the artists of these five Pacific Rim countries.

The next day, they will present their respective folk arts. "A Divine Dance" will be staged as part of this program.

On May 4, the Japanese, Chinese and Soviets will team up for the first part whereas Seoul and Pyongyang musicians will render Park's 20-minute-taking concerto on "Arirang," the most popular Korean folk song.



Park Pom-hun

27th Paeksang Arts Gala Set For April 30

The 27th Paeksang Arts Awards will be presented in a gala ceremony at the Hyatt Hotel Grand Ballroom on April 30 at 6:10 pm.

The ceremony for movie, drama and television events will be held as a dinner show for a get-together of some of the top stars of the nation and their fans.

All the outstanding works in the field of the performing arts, film and broadcasting presented to the public from March 1990 to February 1991 will compete in 12 categories.

The grand prize of the evening will be selected by a secret vote which is to be held on the spot at the ceremony.

The categories of the awards are: grand prizes for film, TV and theater, best film, TV and theater productions, best directors in film, TV and theater, best actors, best screenplay teleplay play, best new directors in film, TV and theater, best non-dramatic TV production, best TV variety show, best comedy actor/actress, a special award, best original song, best actor/actress in children's roles, and a popularity award.

Book Guide

Vortex

Vortex, by Larry Bond
(Warner, 747pp., \$2135)

Remember Tom Clancy's second book, "Red Storm Rising"? It was about a third world war in which the pre-perestroika superpowers had a no-nukes but otherwise no-holds-barred skirmish. It was plotted by a computer war game. The man behind the computer, Larry Bond, went on to wage a second Korean War in a novel called "Red Phoenix." Now he hypothesizes a multiple-front war in South Africa, calling it, since it must be called something, "Vortex."

The scenario this time is exceedingly intricate. South Africa's moderate government is opposed by white supremacists. By the time war breaks out the moderates are gone and the supremacists supreme, the Cubans are involved, and the Libyans, Americans and British are on the way. Even this does not fully describe the players, since the story focuses heavily on the mutual distrust of South Africa's two major white ethnic groups, the Boers and the English.

It is, in fact, the rivalries and differing points of view of South Africa's whites that produce the most gripping moments of this novel. (UPI)

Breaking Down Doctrinal Wall

Multi-Religious Exchanges Flourish

By Hong Sun-hee
Staff Reporter

Contacts are increasing among clerical people belonging to different religions to break down the doctrinal wall alienating laymen as well as themselves and also to effectively guide them to spiritual enlightenment.

They are trying to get close to each other through charity events, participation in theological seminars and guest speeches on radio programs targeted at listeners believing in creeds other than their own.

A charity exhibition for the child victims of the Gulf War was held at the Paeksang Memorial Hall in downtown Seoul early this month jointly organized by clergymen from Catholic, Buddhist and Won Buddhist circles.

The nuns and sisters did paintings and wrote poems for the exhibition which will resume on April 27 in Iri, Cholla-pukto at the Won Buddhism Headquarters and then move to a gallery in Pusan early next month.

These religious women under the group name Samschoe (A Body for Three Smiles) hosted a charity concert in 1988 under the umbrella of the Seoul Paralympics.

The Catholic-leaning Pyonghwa Broadcasting Company featured a Buddhist priest on a one-hour popular radio show on the occasion of its first anniversary so that the monk, who has his own program on Buddhist radio, could talk about Buddhism.

Last December, a Franciscan father introduced the significance of Christmas to Christians and explained Catholic rituals on Buddhist radio.

On the occasion of the 100th year of



Korea Times
Catholic sisters and nuns of different Buddhist sects appreciate paintings in a charity exhibition they jointly organized in Seoul early this month.

the birth of its founder, Won Buddhism plans a meeting of religious leaders April 27-28 to seek cooperation among different religions for the cause of global peace and national unification.

Expected to take part in the multi-religious conference are Revs. Kang Won-yong and Kang Min-gyu from Protestant churches, Catholic fathers Paek Nam-in and Yim Chin-chang, executive chief So Ui-hyon of the Korean Buddhist Chogye Order Secretariat Office, chief abbot Oh Ik-je of Chondogyo and Lee Pyong-ju representing Confucianism.

Going in tandem with the conference will be an international seminar under

the theme, "The Global Community and Religion," April 25-27 at Wonkwang University in Iri.

Twenty renowned scholars of religion from eight countries will read papers on the today and the tomorrow of religion.

The papers will cover the range of Christianity, Catholicism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Won Buddhism, Hinduism, Islamism and Taoism among others.

The keynote speakers and the participants will exchange their views on ways to improve the mentality of contemporary people with the help of religion.

Germany, USSR Set to Talk About Swapping Seized Art

BONN (Reuters) — Germany and the Soviet Union are prepared to discuss exchanging works of art seized from each other in World War II, Bonn's foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

But a ministry spokesman told Reuters no date had been set for preliminary talks on the issue, raised in a friendship treaty due to be ratified this week by the German parliament.

The historic 20-year treaty, ratified by the Soviet side in March, was signed last November in Bonn by Soviet Presi-

dent Mikhail Gorbachev and Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

It includes a section calling for the return of artworks captured by German and Soviet forces from the other side.

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Musicians Hail New Home in Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) - British sound and American-engineered silence have harmonized to ecstatic acclaim in Birmingham's new Symphony Hall, an artistic gem in this city of industrial decline.

"It's a marvelous hall to play in, with very, very clear acoustics," cellist David Russell said after the first concert in the 35-million-pound (63-million-dollar) hall on April 15.

"A musician can hear all parts of the orchestra."

Equally important, no one can hear trains rumbling through a tunnel 96 feet (30 meters) below the building. The 25,000-ton building rests on 1,215 blocks of rubber placed atop the foundation pilings.

Russell Johnson, acoustical designer

of a highly praised new hall in Dallas, fitted Symphony Hall with sound-reflecting wooden floors, an adjustable reverberation chamber, and a wooden canopy above the stage that can be adapted for large or small ensembles.

Sound-absorbing "fuzz panels" can also be deployed if required.

"The city council told us they wanted the finest concert hall in Europe and I believe they have got it," said Johnson, 67, of Artec Consultants Inc. of New York.

Paul Griffiths, a music critic for The Times of London, remarked that the hall is virtually free of stray noise, "which means that the most delicate sounds can register; the effect was almost uncanny, and quite outside my experience."

The only drawback, he added, "is that audience noise registers accurately too."

Symphony Hall is the showpiece of Birmingham's International Convention Center, a sign of new vibrancy in a city which has made the arts a symbol of its recovery from devastating industrial losses in the 1970s.

Birmingham has recently lured the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet from London, and the revived D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is based there.

The Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and its 36-year-old conductor, Simon Rattle, were already ranked among the best in Britain. Now they have a 2,211-seat hall to match, and 500 more seats than were available in the old Town Hall.

"Our conductor in the 1920s, Sir Adrian Boult, was promised a hall by the city fathers but we have had to wait until now to get it. It looks and sounds marvelous," Rattle said on opening day.

National Theater on May 7

Kuk Soo-ho Mixes Traditional Korean Dance With Ballet Music

A veteran traditional Korean dancer prepares a performance using Igor Stravinsky's ballet music "Rite of Spring" as its accompanying music.

Kuk Soo-ho, artistic director of the Chungang Tidim Dance Company, is busy with the preparation for its scheduled performance at the National Theater on May 7.

This is the first I trial ever to be made by a traditional Korean dancer in the nation.

Kuk, professor at the Chungang University, said "the coming performance is a challenge for me to create a universality in the traditional Korean dance."

It is a worldly trend among the dancers with international fame to have their dance capabilities tested through the performance of the "Rite of

Spring," he said.

"Thus, it is a kind of a crystallization of my long-cherished dream to display traditional Korean dance language to the accompaniment of the ballet music," Kuk went on to say.

The dance Kuk will choreograph for the occasion will have the theme of expressing primitive human emotion over a woman being offered as sacrifice to the God in ancient age.

Some 60 members of the Tidim Dance Company will appear in the performance. However, they are said to have devoted to the preparation since last autumn.

The music "Rite of Spring" requires a lot of improvisity in dance. Whether to succeed or not in the performance depends on how to match the paces and steps of Korean dance with the atmosphere of the western music.

Anyhow, the coming trial stage to tune traditional Korean dance language with ballet music is widely accepted as a challenge to render universality to the Korean dance.



Korea Times
Culture Minister Lee O-young, right, and director Chong Chae-hun of the Cultural Properties Bureau have a look at an assortment of earthenware Wednesday at an exhibition of traditional handicrafts made by government-designated human treasures. A total of 288 craftsworks will be displayed until June 5 at the Handicraft Art Museum inside the Kyongbok Palace.

EXHIBITION

Park Chang-don's oils on Korean paths at Yeh Gallery (542-5543) April 24-May 3.

Lee Kyong-hee's bright oil paintings at Lotte Gallery (752-2500) April 24-29.

Na Jung-tai's folk paintings-based works at Kumho Gallery (720-5866) April 24-30.

Park Soon-kwan's ceramics at To Art Space (511-3399) April 25-May 2.

Paintings by 23 members of Changrim Group at Chamsil Lotte Gallery (411-6784) April 24-29.

Lee Hee-soon ceramics at Kwanhun Gallery (733-6469) April 24-30.

Byun Yung-whan's paintings at Kwanhun Gallery April 24-30.

Paintings by 14 young artists under the title "Image 14" at Chongnam Gallery (732-7123) April 24-30.

Cho Seong-ae's prints at Saem Gallery (545-1174) April 24-30.

Paintings by six young female artists at Samjong Gallery (722-9883) April 24-30.

Kim Nak-il's paintings on cloth at Hansun Gallery (720-7218) April 24-30.

Abstracts by eight artists at Na Gallery (732-8846) April 24-30.

Lee Ki-gwang's paintings at Chongnam Gallery (732-7123) April 24-30.

Ho Chin-gwon's abstracts at Hong Gallery (730-7799) April 24-30.

Chang Dong-mun's paintings at Gallery Paik (730-6262) April 24-May 3.

Photos and drawings by Elfi Frolich of Germany at Goethe Institut in Seoul (754-9831) April 25-May 23.

Retrospective of the late Nam Kwan at National Museum of Contemporary Art in Kwachon April 25-May 24.

Lee Man-ik's Korean-style paintings at Hyundai Gallery (734-8215) April 23-May 3.

Lee Gyeong-ran's acrylics and oils at Paeksang Memorial Hall (724-2229) April 23-29.

Yang Kyu-chol's watercolors at Gallery Hangang (733-7778) April 20-26.

Jin Won-jang's oils on flowers and women at Yeomock Gallery (514-8888) April 23-May 3.

Kim Chang-hee's sculptures at Pyo Gallery (543-7337) April 23-30.

Enamel works by 30 artists at Shinsegae Department Store Gallery April 23-28.

Paintings and sculptures by 18 female members of the Tongmi Group at Seoul Gallery, ground floor of the Press Center, April 23-28.

Realistic-style paintings by seven Chinese artists under the title "China, Today's Realism" at M Art Gallery

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(516-8181) April 20-May 4.

Choe Young-hoon's paintings on flowers and mountains at Chongjak Gallery (549-3112) April 19-30.

Hur Mi-ja's abstract oil and acrylics at Total Gallery (762-6185) April 21-30.

Liu Jae-woo's watercolors at Gallery 90 (567-6860) April 19-29.

Park Sang-suk's sculptures at Space Gallery (763-0771) April 20-26.

Shin Jong-shik's oils at Nakgyong Gallery (733-1411) April 20-26.

Kim Tae-ho's mixed media on paper at Gallery Hyundai in Sagan-dong April 22-29.

Metal works by eight artists at Gallery Bing (796-7318) April 17-30.

Paintings by Kwon Ok-yon, Kim Whan-ki, Kim Heung-sou, Pyong Chong-ha, Lee Ung-no, Lim Jik-soon, Chang Uck-chin and Choi Young-rim at Gallery Chunga (512-3128) April 18-30.

Lee Chong-moo's landscapes at Kangnam Hyundai Gallery (549-6880) April 18-30.

Lee Choong-keun's "New Figurative Art" paintings at Yejin Gallery (514-2321) April 18-28.

Yun Dong-koo's abstract oil and mixed media paintings at Moin Gallery (739-9291) April 15-27.

Metal works titled "The Spirit of the New Generation" at Gallery Bing (796-7318) April 17-30.

"The Fantasy of Light and Four Dimensions - Holographic Sculptures" by A. Alexander at Seoul Arts Center April 12-May 10.

Cario Carra (of Italy): "Graphic Works, 1907-1965" at Seoul Arts Center April 10-28.

"New Wave of Chinese Painting" with 18 Chinese artists invited, at Walker Hill Art Center April 1-May 10.

Lee Sung-won's photos titled "Image of Arabs" at Pine Hill Gallery (732-7919) April 1-30.

Paintings and sculptures by Lee Kang-so, Oh Su-hwan, Lee Yong-hak and Yun Song-jin at Yehyang Gallery (763-4255) April 12-25.

Korean-style paintings by 10 artists including Lee Ban, Lee Doo-shik and Suh Seung-won at Yemaek Gallery (732-1320) April 13-30 in celebration of the gallery opening.

Paintings by 15 leading artists including Kim Ki-chang, Pyon Chong-ha, Oh Ji-ho, Yoon Joong-sop and Lim Jik-sun at Gallery Beulah (720-2300) April 13-27.

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April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Hoam Hall of Performing Arts. Program: Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and Prokofiev.

Kim Chon-bung's haegum (Korean fiddle) recital on April 25 at 8 p.m. at Ye-eum Hall (738-3200).

Seoul Chamber Orchestra's concert on April 25 at 8 p.m. at Seoul Arts Center Concert Hall. Program: Mozart's Divertimentos in D Major and in F Major, Concerto for Two Violins and "Non piu di fiori" from opera "La Clemenza di Tito." Solo singer is mezzo soprano Kim Shin-ja.

Billy Harper Jazz Quintet's concert on April 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Hoam Hall of Performing Arts. (751-5548).

Duo guitar recital by Sergio and Odair Assad on April 26 at 8 p.m. at Seoul Arts Center Concert Hall. Program: Rameau, Debussy, Koshkin, Piazzolla and Belljini.

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