Programme of Shilla Ensemble Performance

1. *Ch’ŏngsŏnggok* (taegŭm) – traditional

*Ch’ŏngsŏnggok* is one of the representative solo pieces for the *taegŭm*, sometimes also performed on the tanso (vertical bamboo flute). The original melody for the piece is based on the song ‘*T’aepyŏngga*’ (Song for Peace) in its vocal version (*kagok*) and transposed an octave higher to maximize the distinctive timbre and articulation that the instrument has. The tendency to stress the notes in the higher register highlights the buzzing sounds produced by the membrane (*ch’ŏng*), as the title implies.

2. *Sarangga* (voice and dance) – traditional

*Sarangga* is one of the most famous songs for *P’ansori*. *P’ansori*, often referred to as Korean Opera, is a type of traditional Korean vocal music which tells a themed story in the form of music theatre, with two musicians sharing the spotlight - a singer (*sorikkun*) and a drummer (*gosu*). In 2003, *P’ansori* was officially recognized by UNESCO as an important piece of world culture.

3. *Sŏlchanggo* (changgo) – traditional

‘*Sŏl*’ means ‘the best’. Hence, ‘*Sŏlchanggo*’ originally referred to performance that only the best of *changgo* players can deliver, in order to demonstrate the playing techniques in the *kaein nori*, an ‘individual play’ movement of an entertainment-based *p’ungmul* performance, *p’an kut*.

4. *Sanjo* Duo (*taegŭm, haegŭm* and *changgo*) - traditional

*Sanjo* is one of the most important genre of Korean music for sol melodic instruments, which has been developed in the 19th century. ‘*Sanjo*’ literally translates as ‘scattered melodies’, and consists of a series of back-to-back movements that gradually speed up from one to another. The melodic instrument or instruments are accompanied by the *changgo*, a double-headed hourglass drum.

5. *Ch’ŏngsan Pyŏlgok* (Song of the Green Mountains)

(*taegŭm, haegŭm, changgo* and dance) - composed by the musicians
The music is made up of the songs from the genre called *p’ungryu* (wind and rivers), as the celebration of nature found in this musical genre is an ideal match to the message of the poem. The dance style originates from traditional court dance and will be reinterpreted in response to the spoken words and music.

6. Swede Dreams (*taegŭm* and *haegŭm*) - arranged by the musicians

Inspired by Sweden’s most popular and iconic pop band, this medley using just Korean string and wind instruments aims to present a rhapsodic vision through these well-known songs.

7. Arirang Medley (*taegŭm*, *haegŭm*, *changgo* and dance) - traditional folk song

*Arirang* is the most representative Korean folk song. Each region of Korea has its own version of *Arirang*, despite often having very different musical styles. The *Arirang* medley will show the diverse colours of Korean folk singing using the common theme of *Arirang*.

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The *daegum* (also spelled *taegŭm*) is a large bamboo transverse flute used in traditional Korean music. It has a buzzing membrane that gives it a special timbre. It is used in court, aristocratic, and folk music, as well as in contemporary classical music, popular music, and film scores.

The *haegum* (also spelled *haegŭm*) is a traditional Korean string instrument, resembling a fiddle. It has a rodlike neck, a hollow wooden soundbox, and two silk strings, and is held vertically on the knee of the performer and played with a bow.

The *janggu* (also spelled *changgo*) is the most representative drum in traditional Korean music. It is available in most kinds, and consists of an hourglass-shaped body with two heads made from animal skin. The two heads produce sounds of different pitch and timbre, which when played together are believed to represent the harmony of man and woman.