

Pianist Jeeyoon Kim translates onstage in multimedia concert

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Jeeyoon Kim is many things, but above all she is a musician. To showcase who she is through her favored mode of expression, she will be appearing in Crescent City this month in a concert she composed to harmonize classical piano, poetry, and photography.

The concert will be held on Saturday January 27, at 3:00 p.m., at Crescent Elk Auditorium, 994 G St., Crescent City.

The name of the concert, “/si-úm/,” is a word Kim, a native Korean, made up from existing Korean syllables. “Si” (pronounced “shee”) is “poetry” and “úm” (pronounced “oom”) is the first part of “úmak,” which means “music.” This leads to her concert being called “poetry music.”

Kim, who lives in Southern California, invented the word while creating the concert’s format, a program of classical piano woven with poetry, short stories of her memories, and black-and-white photography. Each piece she plays will be preceded by her sharing a memory and reading one of 11 poems she commissioned or selected, with a background provided by one of 11 photos by photographer Allen Brown.

The concert honors the various facets of Kim’s persona and her entry into the popularization of Korean culture in the United States, such as the rise of K-pop (Korean pop music) and K-beauty (Korean skin care routines). “I’m K-classic,” says Kim.

The inclusion of poems, Kim's first foray into a literary genre that intrigues her, was a lengthy process undertaken with painstaking care to pair each poem with musical pieces that she said "speak similar kind of emotions that I feel" when played.

The photography was the final element to be worked into the concert, Kim says. "I felt there was glue needed, something to 'hold a place' for the audience as it listens to the poetry and piano."

Kim said she loved that the photography practice — before the advent of digital cameras — was a "slow process" involving developing film and choosing which images to print, even decades later. The practice mirrored Kim's two-year process to develop, edit and rehearse "si-úm/," orchestrating all the details but still leaving the end product open to the receiver's interpretation.

"My idea is that I started this project, but it's completed from the audiences end," she says. She added that she hopes audience members will record their thoughts about the music on the postcards she will have available to send to friends, thereby extending the concert's reach.

"Everybody's creative," she says. "You have to tap into it. Just start writing."

For Kim, performing a concert is her gift to the audience that she experiences simultaneously. "It's like unwrapping the present together," she says. "I bring my story, hopefully that taps into your story. There is a magic taking place. It's a growth experience."

Tickets start at \$15, and are available at Del Norte Office Supply and online at [DNACA.Eventbrite.com](https://dnaca.eventbrite.com). You can also purchase Half-Season Tickets at those outlets. Through a grant from the County of Del Norte, Veterans are eligible for free Season Tickets. Please email office@dnaca.net for more information.

For more information on this concert or the Performance Series, please visit [DNACA.Eventbrite.com](https://dnaca.eventbrite.com), call DNACA at 707.464.1336, or email office@dnaca.net.