

## FFWPU USA: David Eaton's HJ Youth Orchestra's First Public Concert Since Pandemic

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*Photo courtesy of David Eaton*

After more than two years, the Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra (Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra) in Korea recently held its first public concert since the Covid-19 pandemic began in 2020. Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra Director and David Eaton says the much anticipated concert, held May 22 as part of the Heavenly Parent Holy Community Nuri Sunday service, was an exciting moment the orchestra has worked tirelessly toward.

"The concert featured several of the original compositions that I composed for the orchestra, such as Moodo March and Hyo Jeong Drum Jam, as well as four songs that I composed in 2020 for the Children's Song CD project that True Mother requested as a way to learn the Korean language," said Mr. Eaton.



"Vocalist Woo Ahan recorded those songs, and we invited her to sing them with the Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra on this occasion," he continued. "We also performed one of her original songs, Gritare, which she composed while she was in South America in 2019. The song is infused with Latin rhythmic and melodic influences, and the audience gave Miss. Woo a standing ovation for her exciting song and heartfelt performances."

The Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra, which began in 2018 with True Mother's guidance, synthesizes Hyo Jin Moon's vision for using music and culture as a way to promote the ideals of Heavenly Parent in the establishment of a culture of peace. "When I first came to Korea to begin my work in 2016, True Mother mentioned the importance of East-West harmony and how my being here could help promote unity between these two cultures," said Mr. Eaton, an American from New Jersey. "In preparing for the concert ... I recalled True Mother's remarks about how the arts can promote unity and harmony."

Though the Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra shifted to online instruction during the pandemic, the group remained committed to achieving mastery of their performances. "We continued online music lessons and maintained the hope that we could perform again," said Mr. Eaton. "Our faculty was instructing the students ... as much as ten hours per week. Their dedication to our young musicians was quite inspiring."

Then, during True Mother's keynote address at the Rally of Hope in Nov. 2020, she announced her desire to establish the International Artists Association for Culture and Peace (IAACP). Her message deeply resonated with Mr. Eaton, who drew inspiration from her remarks.

"She shared her view that the artistic expressions of Europe and its classical tradition were part of the Christian culture and that this tradition could be a model for art in the Hyo Jeong cultural experience," he said. "She alluded to how European artistic culture was a glorious expression based on the expectation of the return of Christ and the dawning of Heavenly Parent's ideal world."



After being appointed the chairman of the Cheon Il Guk Holy Song Committee in 2016 and moving to South Korea, Mr. Eaton has continued working with musicians in the U.S. and abroad in an effort to create more original [Holy Songs](#) and a greater sense of Hyo Jeong culture across the globe. He has worked closely with the L.A. Band, among others, to record several new original songs for the annual Holy Song Competition run by the CIG Holy Song Committee.

The desire for original songs from musicians in the Unification community has prompted the creation of a week-long songwriting intensive this summer, [The Original Song Project](#), for young adult Unificationist musicians in America.

"Our mission is to create an artistic, constructive, and supportive space for young adults to inspire the writing and sharing of original songs," said Sunhwa Reiner, program director. Starting initiatives like The Original Song Project and the Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra is not an easy road, but with consistent effort, patience, and gratitude, the results speak for themselves.

"I wasn't sure if we could be successful [in the beginning]," Mr. Eaton said regarding the orchestra. "However ... I sensed that we could build something that could have an impact on the children in our program as well as the Gapyeong community."

The Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra program now has more than a hundred students and provides instruction in flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, guitar, trumpet, and percussion. But Mr. Eaton says there is more to come, as he aims to present four concerts annually and build the orchestra into an important cultural institution, similar to the Little Angels.

"It is our hope that through this program we can have a positive influence on the Seorak community and share the ideals of Heavenly Parent's Holy Community through the art of music," he said. "True Mother is always reminding us that gratitude is the key to dealing with challenging circumstances, and in the spirit of gratitude, we continued to prepare and, eventually, presented our performance. [We are thankful to] True Mother, Dr. Yun Young Ho, Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra leadership, teachers, staff, parents, and students for their support and perseverance during these trying times. [Our] results are proof of everyone's determination and dedication to the Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra program."

You can watch one of the songs from the Hyo Jeong Youth Orchestra program [here](#).

# THE ORIGINAL SONG PROJECT

A SONGWRITING WORKSHOP - SUMMER 2022

## The Original Song Project Application

We are excited to announce the launch of the Original Song Project. It is a week-long immersion program targeting young adult Unificationist musicians ages 18-40 interested in songwriting located in the heart of Manhattan. Our mission is to create an artistic, constructive, and supportive space for young adults to inspire the writing and sharing of original songs. At the conclusion of the workshop, the goal is to have every participant compose at least one original song with the option to perform in the open concert for family and friends.

Some of the activities we may engage in: songwriting sessions, seminars with professional songwriters, street performing in NYC, going to shows/other NYC explorations, discussions around songs and music within the Unification movement, consideration for a professionally recorded music video, tour and potential recording session at the Manhattan Center, etc.

Who: Unificationist musicians ages 18-40

When: Sunday, Aug. 14 to Sunday, Aug. 21 (Closing concert will be Saturday evening)

Where: 4 West 43rd St Building in New York City

Workshop fee: \$550 with limited scholarships (Included is lodging, food, workshop expenses and activities, and subway travel. Travel expenses to and from NYC are not included.)

CORE TEAM: Sunhwa Reiner, Rebecca Cáliz, Stephanie Dias, Jack LaValley, Manny Moyongo, Peter Reiner, Yoshiha Tsuchida

For those in need of financial support, we are doing our best to raise funds to provide partial scholarships. However, as we cannot guarantee how much we can provide or how many people we can support, please prepare accordingly. We will communicate with applicants once we have more information.

REGISTRATION CLOSES Sunday, July 24 at 11:59 PM EST.

Due to limited space, there is no guarantee that all applicants will be accepted.

COVID-19: Our hope is to make the workshop environment as safe as possible by following the CDC guidelines. We will send out more information as to what our plans and precautions are regarding COVID-19.

For general information and questions, please contact the core staff at

[theoriginalsongproject@gmail.com](mailto:theoriginalsongproject@gmail.com).



\* Required



First Name \*

Your answer



Last Name \*

Your answer

Email \*

Your answer

Phone Number \*

Your answer

Birthdate \*

Date



Home Address \*

Your answer

Emergency Contact Name \*

Your answer

Emergency Contact Phone Number \*

Your answer

Allergies or Dietary Restrictions \*

Your answer

Do you have any physical restrictions or other things the workshop staff may need to know? \*

Your answer

We ask that everyone, vaccinated or not, do a PCR or rapid COVID test before attending the workshop, in order to keep safety as a top priority. \*

I understand and will get tested before attending the workshop.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The workshop fee is \$550. If you are accepted into the workshop, you'll be able to pay via cash, Venmo, or check. \*

I understand and commit to paying the workshop fee if I am accepted.

I understand but need some financial help. I will reach out to the team at [theoriginalsongproject@gmail.com](mailto:theoriginalsongproject@gmail.com) for more information.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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