Dance of the drums

DEEPA ALEXANDER

His drum and Dunhot demonstrate the best of Korean culture through enchanting vocals, dynamic choreography and percussion.

Date: November 16
Venue: The Music Academy
Times: 8.30 p.m.

Strong emotion and the steady sound of the drums that fill the room at the heart of Wild Rhythm, by Hy Young Bu and Dunhot. The concert showcasing Korean culture promises to be a treat for the eye and ear and a snapshot of the authenticity of Korean culture.

Hy Young Bu, designated as a national treasure in his home country, is from a family of Mugolos, the kind of group consisting of drummers who handed down their traditions. He acquired this knowledge from his grandfather. His drum technique, in turn, influenced renowned drummers across the world such as Peter Banda, Udimet and Loey. His movements that makeup for fast and precise, arrest the rhythm, and melodic and jive, fast and draw across time and space.

His band, Dunhot, on the other hand, has been influenced by his remembrance of tradition and melody in the sound stage.

Dunhot, a traditional Korean art organization since 2007, has told stories transforming cultural barriers, through its energetic performance and engaging vocals. On stage, it brings alive an ancient Korean ritual, indicating the forms of Harum, through dynamic choreography and drum beat that mix back into the ancient beat of Korea.

'The focus is to spread and keep — a passion and love for life — to every member of his audience.'

At the 60th Asia Chamber Festival November Fort, tradition and modern will merge in a spectacle that includes Pa'Che — performances varying from the Korean Cymbal and Gung drum to the Chinese gong and Gung drum with magnificent vocals that evoke the globe, India — with its vibrant, traditional and modern musical traditions.

Hy Young Bu and Dunhot are presented by Info Centre in association with the Korea Foundation and the Korea Arts Management Service.

Dunhot speaks about their blend of tradition and contemporary music with Hy Young Bu.

Your band is seen as a repository of traditional Korean music. What kind of experiences do you get when you perform at home and abroad?

Our performance 'Wild Rhythm' is a concert presenting the various Korean traditions of drum. Drums are a tradition in music with modern elements. It involves the audience to participate and fully express their emotions. Regardless of cultural background, whether we perform at home or abroad, our music and passion never fails to touch the audience.

How do you arrive at a balance between Hy Young Bu’s individual performance and Dunhot’s group effort?

Hy Young Bu is not only a virtuoso drum but a Korean national treasure. When he is five years old, he was introduced by his grandmother to drum performance — the rhythmic rhythm of the drum, the emotional expression of the life in each section of the drum, and his. Hy Young Bu demonstrates the origin of Korean traditional drumming is spirituality. Dunhot has collaborated with Hy Young Bu since 2007. Their energetic music remain the hallmark of his performance on the traditional drum.

There’s no choreography, sound and percussion in your performances — a visual music. How does that develop?

The unique thing about Dunhot’s music is that all of them play more than one instrument; they drum and play drumming at the same time. For example, a drummer who plays traditional Korean musical instrument would simultaneously play a powerful drum and the lead singer could join the live drum.

Do you play other classical percussion — Afro-Caribbean, Brazilian, African?

We play music based on Korean chymes on instruments of Korean origin. However, we would try to use one live song to create a duet with the audience.

What kind of audience are you looking for? Do you have to tailor your performance to suit each place, each audience?

Indeed, a sense of energy — after the song — to the audience is the theme of our performances. We are always surprised to see how much of our energy gets translated to the audience. They appear to be more enthusiastic at the point of the performance. Therefore, Dunhot will continue breaking down conventional modes of India and the band will present an exciting performance.
Wild Beats - Nov 16 & 19

Dulsori primarily aims to rekindle the spirit of ancient Korean festivals on the modern stage. “We aim to break the barriers between the players and the audience in staging our performances,” says Kap-Hyun Moon, director of Dulsori. Dulsori believes in creating a sense of community and understands the existence and importance of communal values in every culture. Dulsori’s performances and interactive programmes attempt to build friendship and unity between the audience and performers, thereby creating a sense of harmony. Through the mesmerizing rhythms of percussion and drums together with enchanting vocals and dynamic choreography, Dulsori’s passionate and colourful performances showcases the unique heritage and spirited origins of traditional Korean culture.

Ha Yong Bu is the Artistic Director of Dulsori and is one of Korea’s national treasures. His dance has captured the imagination of virtuoso artists of different traditions. Renowned dancer Fina Basoch, found Ha’s dance deeply moving. Ariane Mocqueline, Director of Théâtre du Soleil who invited Ha Yong-bu to France as a guest lecturer and choreographer said his “movements are like the currents of a river”. Ha Yong-bu’s movement is free and unfettered, like the wind and water, at once fusing and deconstructing time and space. His work is a seamless blend of tradition and modernity, pushing the physical body to its limits.

Through the mesmerizing rhythms of percussion, enchanting vocals and dynamic choreography, Dulsori’s colourful performance showcases the unique heritage and spirited origins of traditional Korean culture.

Wild Beats

November 16, The Music Academy, 7.30 p.m.

November 19, The Kerala Fine Arts Hall, Kochi, 7.30 p.m.

Ha Yong Bu

Dulsori

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