

## **Kyungso Park**

### *Gayageum*

Kyungso Park is one of Korea's preeminent *Gayageum* virtuosos and is successor to **Intangible Cultural Property No. 23** for *Gayageum Sanjo* (an improvised instrumental solo that developed during the late *Joseon* era) and *Byeongchang* (self-accompanied song).

The music of Kyungso Park draws its inspiration from the very soul of nature: The sounds of earth, metal, wood, silk... Her tremendous passion for the spiritual foundations of Korean music has taken her on an extraordinary musical journey, from playing in the contemporary music group *Gayageum Ensemble AURA*, and the eclectic Jazz/Fusion band *Oriental Express* to her own genre-defying Gayageum-Meets-House project, *Cosmo Breeze*.

Kyungso is constantly seeking new challenges, both to redefine the *Gayageum* for the 21st century and to push her own abilities as a performer. Her versatility, seemingly inexhaustible energy, profound understanding of Korea's musical heritage and willingness to "try something new" (as well as her sense of humor...) have made Kyungso a widely sought-after artistic collaborator.

Kyungso Park challenges us to see the *Gayageum* as a living musical treasure to share with the world, and not merely an exotic museum piece. Her proof is in her music, and whether she is playing *Sanjo*, the latest work from one of Korea's most avant garde composers, jazz, funk, or electronica, Kyungso Park's music will continue to astonish us all.