



Expressing Vocality in Korean Instrumental Performance and Transmission

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This talk examines vocality as an embodied mode of musical knowledge and creative presence in Korean instrumental traditions, focusing on the ways vocal practices inform performance, pedagogy, and transmission. In *pungmul* and *samulnori*, performers use vocables to voice rhythmic and melodic patterns, transforming sound into a bodily and mnemonic practice. On the *piri*, breath, articulation, ornamentation, and timbral inflection bring instrumental sound into dialogue with the human voice. In vocal genres such as *pansori* and even popular genres such as trot, vocalists imitate the articulations of percussion and string instrument such as the *gayageum*. At the same time, Korean string musicians also shape their phrasing, timbre, and inflections through gestures that evoke vocal expression. Across these traditions, expression between voice and instrument is fluid, revealing a multivocality of hearing, learning, and crossing of musical boundaries.

November 20, 2026
4:00-5:30 pm
Mendenhall Lab 125

Register to attend
this in-person talk.



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