

Ian Y. Chung
Artist Statement

I compose music that embraces multiculturalism as a cornerstone, weaving together diverse musical influences to create a tapestry of our rich global heritage. Drawing from a palette of sounds rooted in various traditions, such as classical, jazz, popular music, and traditional Korean music, I seek to cultivate a sense of harmony among listeners from diverse backgrounds.

Familiarity serves as a guiding principle in my work. I refracted the original materials, whether a hummable pentatonic melody or bombastic Korean drumming, to encapsulate their essence while simultaneously fill them with intrigue. Then, I use them as navigators that invite audiences to effortlessly connect with the music on both emotional and intellectual levels.

A fast-paced musical progression from my jazz background drives the momentum of my compositions, propelling listeners on a dynamic journey and supplying an endless imagination. I employ syncopations and irregular rhythmic pulsations to capture attention and break expectations. Through rapid development and evolving textures, maintain engagement and ensure the music leaves a lasting impression long after the final note has faded.

Finally, I write organic music by adopting an economical and improvisatory approach. The economical use of material brings coherence to the composition and makes a compelling musical statement. Combined with improvisatory elements, such as intricate ornamentation and embellishments of traditional Korean music, it adds spontaneity. Through my music, the goal is to transcend cultural boundaries and reach out to a varied audience globally.