



BIOGRAPHY PARK SOOK RYEON

Sook Ryeon Park is one of the most active Korean pianists both as a soloist and chamber musician. Her international career has drawn positive attention since 1993 when she became an Assistant Professor at the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in the United States. She has performed numerous concerts in the United States, Europe and Asian countries including Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Malaysia. She came back to her native country Korea in 1999 and has remained very active as a performer and teacher. Serving as a tenured faculty of the Sunchon National University, she has tutored many young aspirants across the nation. Among her prominent students, Seong Jin Cho has emerged as a Wunderkind, first prize winning the Chopin International Piano Competition (2015).

Dr. Park's academic backgrounds were built in the most prominent institutions in the United States and Korea. She holds both Doctoral and Masters' degrees from the Eastman School of Music with highest distinction and the Performer's Certificate. Prior to Eastman education, Park earned a B.A. degree from Seoul National University. In between, she also participated in the Aspen Summer Music Festival, Salzburg Summer Festival, and the Saint Louis Conservatory of Music where she was granted the Artist Certificate.

Park has performed numerous concerts with many prominent orchestras including Wraclaw Philharmonic Orchestra, Samara Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Chamber Orchestra and Korean Symphony Orchestra. In addition, Park has performed some four scores of solo piano recitals on invitation. Addedly, between 1993 and 2000, Park led the "Arete Trio" touring many cities of America and Asian Countries.

In Korea, Park enjoys the firm reputation of the pioneer and master of "lecture recital". Since 1994, she has led the movement of the audience-friendly classical music.

Since 2005, Park has dramatically broadened the realm of her activities, taking various positions such as judge of international competition and artistic director of music festivals. Notedly, since 2010, Park has been the artistic director of DMZ International Music Festival.