

# UKM-Korean Cultural Exchange Program

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## **Taekwonmoo (Taekwon dance)**

Taekwonmoo is dance of Taekwondo (Korean traditional martial art) or called Taekwon dance. Taekwondo is a very good sport for our body and mind. Using all parts of the body, the art of unarmed combat enables our body to use power and physical fighting skills. Also, through training, Taekwondo strengthens our body, enhances our spirit and life as well as teaches us self-defense skills. Taekwondo is conducive to children's growth. Moreover, mediation helps us govern our body and mind well.

Taekwonnoo, the combination of Taekwondo and dance, contains virtues like unity and courage that primary children should have. Sometimes, some children complained during practice and others questioned why they have to practice the dance.



## Buchae Chum (Traditional Korean Fan Dance)

**The Traditional Korean Fan Dance** is a dance in which dancers dance wearing Korean clothes or sugar coats and hold fans decorated with flower drawings or feathers. It is told that people from the prehistoric age danced with fans made of leaves and other things. Many countries around the world use fans when people dance their folk dances, but the fans are considered only as belongings or ornaments. On the other hand, the role of the fan is critical in the traditional Korean Fan Dance because all physical movements of the dance are led from it by folding, turning, unfolding.



## Samul nori

**Samul nori** is a genre of traditional percussion music originating in Korea. The word *samul* means "four objects" and *nori* means "play"; samul nori is always performed with four traditional Korean musical instruments:

1. *Kkwaenggwari* (a small gong)



2. *Jing* (a larger gong)



3. *Janggu* (an hourglass-shaped drum)



4. *Buk* (a frame drum similar to the bass drum)



The traditional Korean instruments are called *pungmul*.

Samul nori has its roots in *nong-ak* (literally "farmers' music"), a Korean folk genre comprising music, acrobatics, folk dance, and rituals, which was traditionally performed in rice farming villages in order to ensure and to celebrate good harvests. Specifically, samul nori music derives from *utdari pungmul* (the *gut*, or shaman ceremony rhythm of the Gyeonggi-do and Chungcheong provinces of South Korea), as well as the genres of Yeongnam folk music and Honam *udo gut*, combined with more contemporary improvisations, elaborations, and compositions.

Each of the four instruments represents a different weather condition: the *janggu* represents rain, the *kkwaenggwari* thunder, the *jing* the sounds of the wind, and the *buk* clouds. The idea of yin and yang is also reflected in these instruments: the *buk* and *janggu* (leather) represent the sounds of the earth, while the *jing* and *kkwaenggwari* (metal) represent sounds of the heavens. Although generally performed indoors, as a staged genre, samul nori depicts the traditional Korean culture, an agricultural society rooted in the natural environment. Samul nori is characterized by strong, accented rhythms, vibrant body movements, and an energetic spirit.

Samul nori has gained international popularity, with many samul nori bands and camps worldwide. Since the 1980s in South Korea, there has been a marked increase in the amount of fusion music, combining samul nori and Western instruments.



- 1 Kim Duk-soo
- 2 A Samulnori performance
- 3 Kim Duk-soo during an overseas performance