



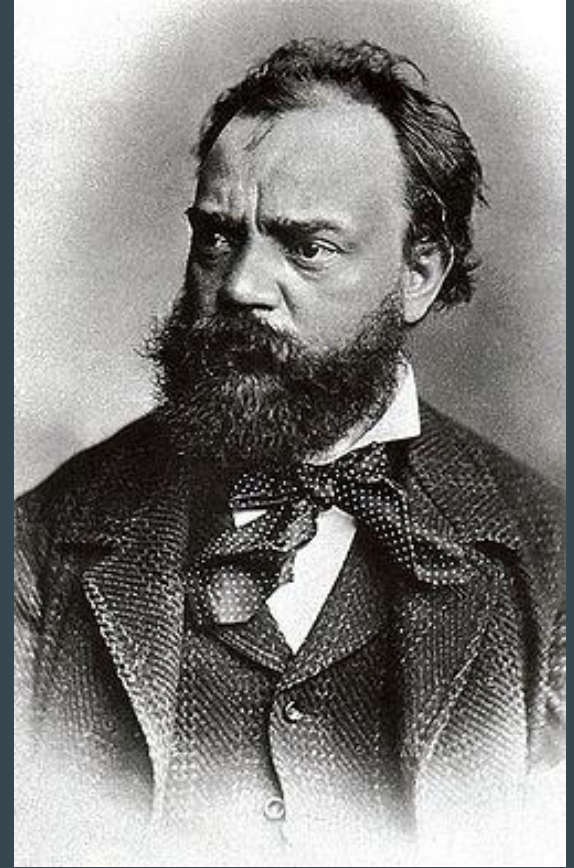
# Korean Folk Music and Dvořák's Humoresque

By: James Han



# Antonín Dvořák

- Born on September 8th, 1841 in Nelahozeves, Bohemia
- Showed talent for music early in life, played violin
- Studied in Zlonice at 12
- Awarded a grant in 1875 by the Austrian government.
- Moved to New York in 1892
- Returned to Bohemia in 1895



# Dvorák's Style of Music

- Wide range of styles thanks to technical skill
- Influenced by Brahms, and blended elements of both Romantic and Classical music
- Dvorák's music was similar to folk music of Bohemia
- Also included traditional dances, such as Polkas, into his music, particularly the "Slavonic Dances"



# Humoresque Op. 101 No. 7

- Written while Dvořák was on vacation in Bohemia in the summer of 1894
- Part of a set of 8 Humoresques
- Set of 8 Humoresques completed in August 1894
- Published in the Fall of 1894 by German publisher F. Simrock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBDmAxSft6A>

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Humoreske  
Humoresque  
opus 101 No. 7

Erleichtert von  
Lothar Lechner

Anton Dvořák  
(1894)

*Poco lento e grazioso*  
*p leggiero*

*p* *dim.* *ppp* *f* *p* *raff.* *a tempo* *pp*

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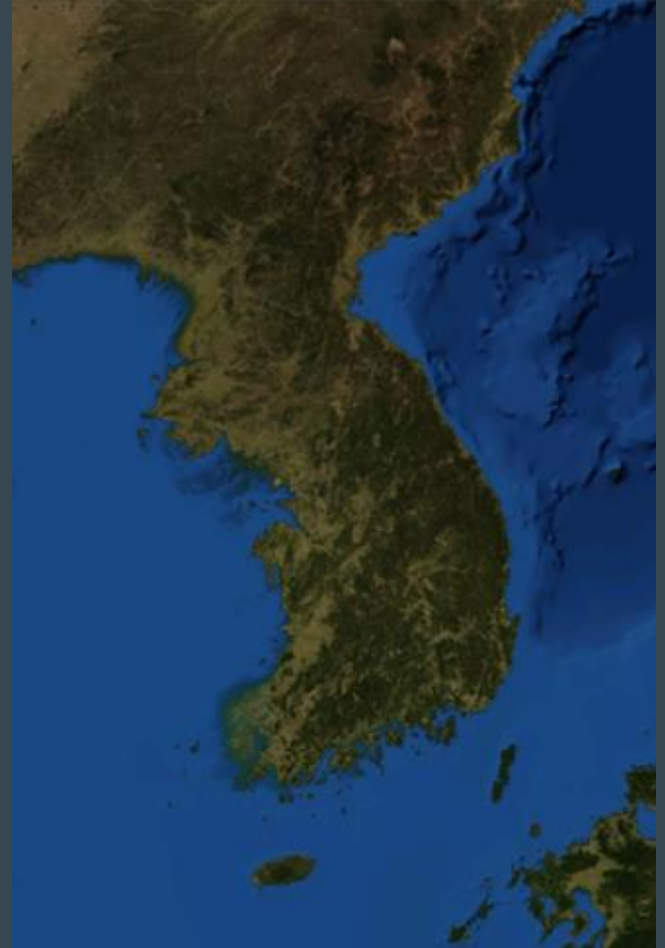
# Background on South Korea

South Korea is located in East Asia, and is a mountainous peninsula, bordered by the Yellow Sea to the west and the Sea of Japan (East Sea) to the East.

**Land Area (km<sup>2</sup>):** 96,920

**Population:** 50,924,172

**Religious Distribution:** Christian 31.6%  
Buddhist 24.2% Other 0.9% None 43.3%



# History of Korea

## Up to 50 B.C.E

- Variety of indigenous cultures.
- Early Joseon circa 300 B.C.E
- Han China conquers Early Joseon, establishes colonies on the Korean peninsula.

## Three Kingdoms Period

- Three kingdoms were Goguryeo, Silla, and Baekje.
- Goguryeo was in the north.
- Baekje was in the southwest.
- Silla was in the southeast.

## Pre-Japanese Occupation

- Goryeo, established in 918, pushed boundaries similar to present day North and South Korea.
- Joseon, established by Yi Seong Gye, lasted until 1897, when it was renamed the Korean Empire.
- The Korean Empire only lasted until 1910, when it was annexed into the Empire of Japan.

## Post-Japanese Occupation

- In 1945, after the end of World War II, Korea became split between the USSR and USA.
- After the Korean war between 1950 and 1953, the peninsula split into North and South Korea.
- North Korea adopted Communism
- South Korea modeled its government after the US.

# Korean Culture

Influence of Chinese Confucian culture.

The Silk Road helped spread Chinese culture into Korea.

There is, however, a distinct difference between Chinese and Korean court music. Sixth-century Korean kings commissioned musicians to develop distinct Korean instruments.



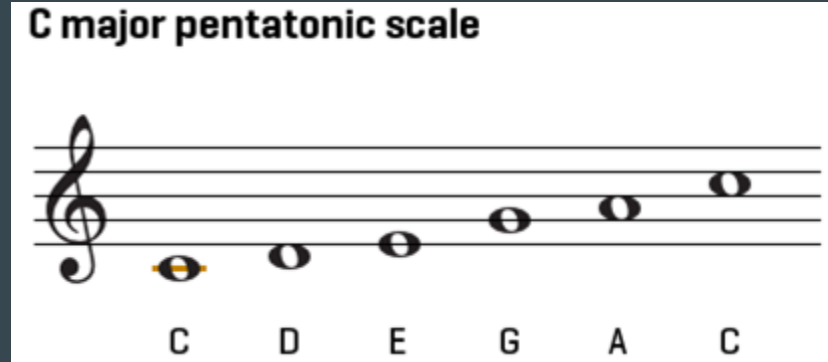
# Korean Traditional Music Structure

**Melody:** The tune of Korean music was considered less important than the overall flow and melody of the music.

**Rhythm:** Korean music focuses on rhythmic motifs and cycles.

**Scale:** Korean music uses the pentatonic scale.

**Time:** Korean folk music tends to be slow and smooth.





# Concept of Changdan

Korean music relies on rhythmic cycles, called Changdan, more than harmony and tune, in contrast to Western technique.

There are different types of Changdan, such as Chinyangjo, Chungmori, Chungjungmori, Chajinmori, and Hwimori.

Changdan can be written in Western time signatures, as shown to the right.

The image displays five examples of Korean Changdan notation, each with its name, tempo, and time signature:

- Chinyangjo**: Tempo  $\text{♩} = 30$ , Time Signature  $\frac{18}{8}$ . The notation shows a series of rests followed by a melodic phrase.
- Chungmori**: Tempo  $\text{♩} = 84$ , Time Signature  $\frac{12}{4}$ . The notation shows a sequence of notes with various rhythmic values.
- Chungjungmori**: Tempo  $\text{♩} = 60$ , Time Signature  $\frac{12}{8}$ . The notation shows a sequence of notes with various rhythmic values.
- Chajinmori**: Tempo  $\text{♩} = 68$ , Time Signature  $\frac{12}{8}$ . The notation shows a sequence of notes with various rhythmic values.
- Hwimori**: Tempo  $\text{♩} = 208$ , Time Signature  $\frac{4}{4}$ . The notation shows a sequence of notes with various rhythmic values.

# Korean Musical Instruments



Danso



Haegeum



Gayageum



Janggu



Bak



Saenghwang



Gwenggwari



Ajaeng



Geomungo



Buk



Pyeongyeong



Nabal



Taepyeongso



Sogeum



Jing



Hoon



Bu

# Arirang

- Simple folk song, consists of a refrain and two simple lines
- There are many different versions of the two lines that vary based on region and time period
- Sung slowly

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkM\\_LXUCMeA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkM_LXUCMeA)

Arirang

Korean folk song

A - ri - rang\_\_ a - ri - rang\_\_ a - ra\_\_ re\_\_ yo.

5  
A - ri - rang\_\_ Go - kye - lo\_\_ Naw - maw kan - da.

9  
Na - lul bu - ri - go ga - shi - nun nim - un\_\_

13  
Shim - ni do\_\_ mok - ga - saw\_\_ bal byung nan - da.

# Secondary Link

- Slowness of both pieces (Both Humoresque and Arirang are performed moderately slowly)

- The flow of the piece, which is considered important in Korean folk music, is an important part of Humoresque.

- The pentatonic scale, the standard in Korean folk music, is recurrent throughout Humoresque.

Arirang is built on the pentatonic scale (G)

Humoresque's first section relies heavily on the pentatonic scale (G)

The image displays two musical scores. The top score is for 'Arirang', a Korean folk song, written in G major and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with Korean lyrics: 'A - ri - rang a - ri - rang a - ra re yo. Go - kye - lo Naw - maw kan - da. Na - lul bu - ri - go ga - shi - nun nim - un. Shim - ni do mok - ga - saw bal byung nan - da.' The bottom score is for 'Humoreske' by Anton Dvořák, arranged by Lothar Lechner. It is in G major and 2/4 time, marked 'Poco lento e grazioso'. The score includes piano (p), piano-piano (pp), and dynamics like 'dim.'. It features complex rhythmic patterns and fingerings, with asterisks marking specific notes.

# Primary Link

- Both Arirang and Humoresque are essentially pieces of folk music that have become a recognizable part of popular culture.
- Humoresque borrows heavily from Bohemian folk music and folk dances, but has become very widespread and easily recognized.
- David Hurwitz, in *Dvořák: Romantic Music's Most Versatile Genius*, writes that “The Seventh Humoresque is probably the most famous small piano work ever written after Beethoven’s *Fur Elise*, and you can still hear it today in everything” (Hurwitz 112).
- In the same way, Arirang, though originally a short folk song, has permeated through Korean culture to the point where almost all Koreans can recognize the melody.
- The simple melodies of both Humoresque and Arirang contribute to their lasting impact on popular culture.



Korean Pop Band Performing Arirang

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