

Gray by Silver Press & Review



Jordana Leigh

Lincoln Center NY for the Performing Arts
Senior Director, Artistic Programming

Gray by Silver's album *Eternal Gray* amplifies the true beauty of nature and our organic surroundings. Rooted in improvisational jazz, *Gray by Silver*, is part of a contemporary arts movement in Korea that is forging its own very specific voice. This ensemble of exemplary artists draws on both current trends as well as traditional Korean rhythms to create authentic jazz from Korea.

Listening to *Eternal Gray* one can't help but be transported by the calm and meditative sounds that let our minds be as expansive as the landscapes they bring to life.

If you take the time to truly stop and experience their music, I promise you'll be transported too. Each song has its own journey. The song *Ayiya*, first captures the listener with HanYul Lee's rich and sensual voice that lifts the soul and ensures that the sonic path ahead will embrace and support you the entire way. The journey continues with the precise and yet flowing playing of ensemble leader and pianist HanBen Lee. And just when you think you know the path of this voyage you are redirected by the energy of drummer YeDarm Pak and daegeum player TaeHyun Kim.

Other works such as *Bird Song* exhibit how *Gray by Silver* transforms traditional Korean music into contemporary jazz and provides space for new voices to be heard. *Bird Song* features original lyrics by HanYul which she wrote based on the heroic story of the Battle of Red Cliffs from the traditional Pansori *Jeokbyeokga*. Hanyul's voice and lyrics share a new perspective and as the artists say, "paints visual images through music."

The album *Eternal Gray* channels the grace and inherit beauty of nature and in doing so creates a sense of empathy and connection to a greater community and world. While each song tells its own story the album *Eternal Gray* unites those stories and our own imaginations in a beautiful harmony.

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Birgit Ellinghaus

alba KULTUR - Director

Gray by Silver is a very mature ensemble that deals with the deepest human emotions and has found its own tonal language to express thoughts and feelings. The outstanding musicians engage intelligently, with the greatest imagination and empathy in their improvisations and in the interplay of shared images and feelings. Timeless, universal and touching music that lets the Asian philosophy and origins shine through. A musical act that deserves its own place on the stages of the world in the field of jazz as well as in the ethno-avant-garde open to musical adventures and in contemporary new music!

Lopa Kothari

BBC Radio3 - Presenter

One of the emerging new talents from Korea. Gray by Silver is fundamentally a jazz group that draws on Korean folk traditions and middle eastern beats. Bandleader pianist and composer HanBin Lee, with HanYul Lee on vocals, TaeHyun Kim on daegeum and YaDarm Park on drums and percussion have a sublime virtuosity where improvisation is a key element of the performance. Eternal Grey is wistful and ethereal and a graceful platform for each of the members of the group.

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Marco Antonio PERALES RODRIQUEZ

CityZen Music - Managing Director

Intimate, beautiful, inspiring music. Western tunes that fit perfectly with korean traditional and singing tradition. The sound is amazingly soft and lovely music.

David FRAZIER

Urban Nomad Freakout Music Festival - Director

Gray by Silver's music is beautiful, delicate, and extremely refined. As contemporary classical or new age or a sort of fusion jazz, I enjoy it quite bit and imagine that the group's evocative melodies — sung in pure tones, but not in any language — could resonate with audiences all over the world. The music is simply beautiful.

David CHÁVEZ

Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events - Music Programmer

The delicateness of the piece requires a mastery of instrumentaion, tightness and precision of subtlety, for which they demonstrated nicely. It's very cinematic and can work well in many western contemporary concert music halls and performing art centers as part of classical and contemporary music season.

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LONDON K-MUSIC FESTIVAL
K-MUSIC NEW TALENT



Expressive pianist and composer Hanbin Lee leads this jazz group, Gray by Silver, in expertly performed, emotional pieces of voice, daegeum (large bamboo flute), percussion, and piano - bringing together classical, jazz, and progressive with Korean and Middle-East rhythms both in ethereal waves and staccato punches.

‘There are some distinctive features in his piano playing, such as a slow but powerful touch... allowing listeners to have room to engage their imagination... This album is totally calm but also suspenseful.’ (Jazz People)

‘Because Gray by Silver plays music combining Korean traditional music and jazz, it seems clear that Hanbin Lee has different thoughts when compared to other jazz musicians... Although some of the songs contain improvised aspects, the piano solo of the overall classical work continues to be deep and calm.’ (MMJAZZ)