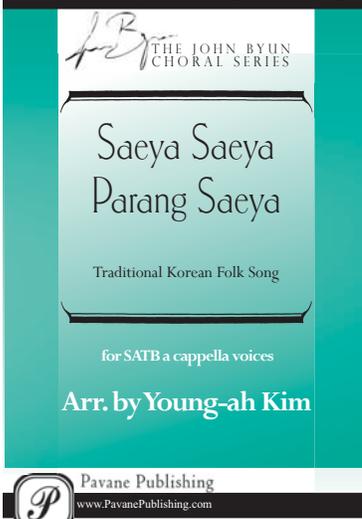


Program Notes



Saeya Saeya, Parang Saeya, literally, “Birds, Birds, Bluebirds,” is perhaps the most representative melody among all the tunes of Korean folk song. Sung as a lullaby, the song is usually performed without any melodic ornamentation, demonstrating only the skeleton of the melody in its simplest form.

Paraphrase

Birds, birds, blue birds, do not disturb the green-bean* fields.
The farmers will cry if the flowers are dropped and lost.

Word for Word Transliteration

<i>Saeya</i> Birds	<i>saeya</i> birds	<i>parang</i> blue	<i>saeya</i> birds	<i>nokdubate</i> green-bean field	<i>anjimara</i> do not sit
<i>Nokduccochi</i> Green-bean flower		<i>dduhruhjimyun</i> if you drop		<i>chungpojangsoo</i> the farmer	
<i>ulgoganda</i> run off weeping	<i>Wiye</i> Fly away	<i>saega</i> birds		<i>naradeunda</i> who keep flying in	
<i>Wiye</i> Fly away	<i>saega</i> birds	<i>naradeunda</i> who keep flying in			

Pronunciation Guide

a = aw	p = pie
ae – eh	cc = Italian [go]
o = oh	dd = Italian [t]
u = oo	
e = eh	
i = ee	
uh = uh	
eu = as in Earth	

*The Korean general Bong-Joon Juhn led an unsuccessful uprising against corrupt rulers and invading Japanese troops in the late 19th century. His nickname was the Green Bean General. Legend says that he was a Korean version of Robin Hood; after attacking corrupt officials and seizing their treasures, he then distributed them to the poor commoners. He was very popular and many commoners joined his army. His army swept through large parts of the Korean peninsula before Korean rulers requested the Japanese army to intervene. Juhn’s army, equipped with spears and arrows, was no match against the westernized gun-wielding Japanese army, and in 1895 Juhn was captured and hanged. Korean commoners sang this song to lament General Juhn’s death and the failed coup d’état, and it is said the widows of Juhn’s army sang this song to their babies as a lullaby.

Young-ah Kim was born in Seoul, Republic of Korea in 1972 and studied piano and organ joining the church choir from early years. She studied composition at Seoul National University, the Royal Academy of Music and King’s College London under the tutelage of Sir Harrison Birtwistle and Franco Donatoni.

She is currently working with Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Bucheon Philharmonic Orchestra and Korean Symphony Orchestra as an Orchestra Arranger and teaching at Seoul National University. Since 2001 she has held the post of the Managing Director in the Seoul Classical Players.

