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Panel 2.6: The Global Village Soundscape: A Matrix of Cultural Encounters

I'm a New Yorker: Localization, Globalization and Korean Community Arts in New York City

The Korean and Korean-American community in New York City has grown steadily over the last fifty years, accompanied by growing interest in Korean traditional arts and a surge of interest in K-pop and K-wave music culture. This paper addresses the transformative phases of how traditional Korean performing arts have been presented. The first phase consists of the immigrant musicians who have built up their reputation, the immigrant becoming “native.” The second phase includes Korean musicians who come to perform in the US. The third phase consists of hybrid groups, ensembles that include both local and international musicians, both Korean and non-Korean. The fourth and last phase identifies new festivals that embrace local and international musicians. Finally, the paper will address how traditional Korean performing arts—still largely unknown to most of the American public—have been introduced and re-invented by imaginative musicians and entrepreneurs for a non-Korean audience.