



Kim So Ra | Key Definitions

Pungmul - A Korean folk music tradition that includes drumming, acrobatic dancing, and singing, Pungmul drumming emerged from a farming culture and this music was originally performed as part of farming to set a working rhythm for labor, during holidays, and part of religious ceremonies.

Sangmo - Practitioners of pungmul wear brightly colored hats called sangmo that are adorned with large pom poms and giant streamers.

Pi-ji - The long paper streamers attached to the top of the sangmo are called pi-ji. When dancing, the pi-ji twirls around the drummer's head adding a stunning visual effect. It is believed the pi-ji were originally much smaller and were part of the uniform for military leaders. When a leader in battle nodded in one direction or another, the streamers were visual cues to manage troop formation and movement.

Musok - The ancient religion of Korea is musok, which involves belief in many spirits. Pungmul was often part of Musok ceremonies. There are currently around 200,000 people in the world who practice Musok, and elements of it are still practiced by Koreans who believe in Christianity, Buddhism or other religions.

Samul Nori - Samul Nori is a form of traditional drumming designed for a seated audience in a theater. While pungmul is very ancient, the more modern Samuel Nori was developed in the 1970s. The Samul Nori ensemble consists of four main percussion instruments which represent elements of nature:

- **Janggu** - The janggu is an hour-glass shaped drum played either while dancing in pungmul or seated during Samul Nori. It is played with sticks. One side of the janggu is pitched higher than the other. It represents the sound of rain in the samul nori ensemble.
- **Buk** - The buk is a barrel drum carved from a single piece of wood and covered in animal skin that is played with a birch stick. The buk represents clouds in the Samul Nori ensemble.
- **Jing** - The jing is a large mounted gong that represents wind. It is played by striking the gong with a stick covered in cloth which produces a lovely, harmonious sound.
- **K'kwaengwari** - The small high-pitched gong that represents lightning in the samul nori is called the k'kwaengwari. This instrument is hardly larger than a person's hand but is perhaps the loudest instrument in the Samul Nori ensemble.