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Composer Hee Yun Kim.  
Photo credit: Jon Dessun

## Hee Yun Kim wins Pablo Casals Competition

South Korean composer [Hee Yun Kim](#), a D.M.A. candidate and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Illinois School of Music, has won the [Festival Pablo Casals](#) International Composition Competition. The prize for winning this prestigious competition is a cash award in the amount of \$20,300. In addition, her winning piece, "Memoir of Dong-Hak," was performed this August during the Pablo Casals Festival in Prades, France. It will be performed again at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris on January 26, 2008.

"Memoir of Dong-Hak" is a composition for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano, named after the [Dong Hak movement](#) which existed in Korea during the late 19th century. The movement, focused around nationalism and social reform, culminated in the 1894 Dong Hak Revolution, wherein thousands of peasants in the Jeolla province reacted against foreign encroachment and the corrupt provincial government. While the revolution failed,

it ultimately succeeded in arousing national consciousness, and is remembered in the folk song "Bird, Bird, Oh, Bluebird," about Bong-Jun Jeon, the general who led the revolution. "Memoir of Dong-Hak" is a reversed variation of this folk tune, which has sung the people's aspirations for a better future.

"Memoir" was chosen from 117 compositions, five of which were performed by the [Ensemble Calliopée](#) at the finals on April 14 in the Abbaye Saint-Michel de Cuxac in southern France. "Memoir of Dong-Hak" also won second prize at the ninth Tokyo International Competition for Chamber Music Composition, which was hosted by the [Japan International League of Artists](#).



Judges panel applauds the composer at the Pablo Casals International Composition Competition. Photo: Uta Suesse Krause



Hee Yun Kim received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the [Seoul National University](#) in Korea, and her first doctorate from the [Krakow Music Academy](#) in Poland. She has worked as a freelance composer for several television shows at the [Korean Broadcasting System \(KBS\)](#); she has also served as a visiting lecturer for several universities, including [Pai-Chai](#) and [Ho-Seo Universities](#), and has worked as a transcriber for the [Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company](#). Her works have been performed in many international cities, including New York, Boston, Amsterdam, Munich, Warsaw, Tokyo, and Seoul, and include a new piece for chamber orchestra, commissioned by the [National Arts Centre in](#)



[Canada](#), which premiered on June 27, 2007.

The Paris-based Ensemble Calliopée performs "Memoir of Dong-Hak" at the festival in August 2007. Photo: Uta Suesse Krause

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