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Ancient Korean art form graces UM stage April 13

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NEWS RELEASE

April 6, 1998

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ANCIENT KOREAN ART FORM GRACES UM STAGE APRIL 13

MISSOULA --

P'ansori, the ancient music-narrative storytelling art of Korea, will be spotlighted next week during the ninth installment of The University of Montana's 1997-98 President's Lecture Series.

Chan Park, assistant professor of Korean Language and Literature at Ohio State University, will present "P'ansori: Performance and Commentary" at 8 p.m. Monday, April 13, in the UM Music Recital Hall. Park's performance is free and open to the public.

In an afternoon seminar that day, Park will demonstrate how Korean ritual and performance art illuminate the unique ways of looking at death in Buddhist cultures. The seminar titled "Images of Death in the Korean Ritual and Performance Tradition" will be held Monday from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Mansfield Center Conference Room. Park's visit anticipates the October 1998 Mansfield Conference on "The Healing Arts in American and Asian Cultures: Living and Dying Well."

Park has published articles and given performance-lectures on P'ansori. While singing the P'ansori songs in the original Korean, she narrates the story line of her performance in English to make it accessible to American audiences. She conveys a well-rounded sense of this extremely rich art form by balancing academic discussion with what one reviewer called "a truly charismatic performance."

"Crossing between speaking and singing, the challenge of the performer is to create the P'an -- the psycho-physical space of active communication between the performer and the audience," Park says

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of her presentation.

Park has written several books about Korean literature and song and edited another book, "Folktales from Korea." She earned a master's degree in drama and theater and a doctorate in Asian languages and literatures from the University of Hawaii. Park has served on the Ohio State University faculty since 1995.

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