

# From Arirang to Dynamite: A Musical Journey to Korea

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## Korean Music

Korea is a country with a rich history in both the traditional music and the contemporary music of today. From Korean folk songs to K-pop, Korean music celebrates the unifying power of music both nationally and internationally. Many traditional Korean songs represent the unification of Korea during a time of liberation and colonization that Korean people experienced for years. K-pop artists, such as BTS and IU, made Korean pop music a global sensation and inspired people around the world to explore Korean music and culture! With Korean music becoming a unifying genre of music for people all over the world, it is even more important to explore the culture and traditions of Korea within the classroom.

## Culturally Responsive Music Curriculum

Through a culturally responsive music curriculum that provides an opportunity to learn about the music and cultures of each other, students will be able to increase their cultural understanding and appreciation of self and others, and to validate their musical and cultural identities. To achieve the goal of music and cultural understanding, the study of world music needs to develop an in-depth understanding of music and culture through:

- Integrating music and culture
- Involving active participation & performance
- Providing authentic music and cultural experiences

World Music Pedagogy 5 dimensions: (1) Attentive Listening, (2) Engaged Listening, (3) Enactive Listening, (4) Creating, and (5) Integrating.

## SONG: Magpie’s Seollal

- Children’s Korean Folk Song, also known as “Magpie’s Lunar New Year”
- “Magpie’s Seollal” is sung by children in Korea during Korean Lunar New Year
- The lyrics express the celebration of Korean Lunar New Year and how children prepare for the special day!
- Magpie’s Seollal Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=o9X0ZW68qUw>

Korean Lyrics	Korean (Phonetic) Lyrics	English Translation
까치 까치 설날은 어저께고요	kkachi kkachi seolnal-eun eojeokkegoyo	Magpie, magpie, yesterday was your New Year’s Day
우리우리 설날은 오늘이래요	uliuli seolnal-eun oneul-ilaeayo	But today is our New Year’s Day
곱고 고운 댕기도 내가 들고	gobgo goun daeng-gido naega deul-igo	I put in my beautiful pigtail ribbons
새로 사온 신발도 내가 신어요	saelo saon sinbaldo naega sin-eoyo	And a newly bought pair of shoes

kka - chikka - chi seol nal-eun eo - jeo - kke - go - yo u - li u - li seol nal-eun o - neul - i - lae -  
 yo gob - go go - un daeng - gi - do nae - ga deul - i - go sae - lo sa - on sin - bal - do  
 nae - ga sin - eo - yo

## SONG: Arirang

- Korean folk song, known by all generations in Korea
- “Arirang” means “My Beloved One”
- The lyrics express the sorrow and joy of two people leaving and hoping to reunite
- The song was sung during Japan’s colonization of Korea and continues to be sung as a reminder of Korea’s unification during that time and the hope for unification in the future (North and South Korea).
- Arirang Lyrics/Karaoke: <https://youtu.be/4CgHjANjLcg?si=6AQHZYyQjyLNII4b>

Korean Lyrics	Korean (Phonetic) Lyrics	English Translation
아리랑, 아리랑, 아라리요	Arirang, Arirang, Arariyo	Arirang, Arirang, Arariyo
아리랑 고개로 넘어간다.	Arirang gogaero neomeoganda.	Crossing over Arirang Pass.
나를 버리고 가시는 님은	Nareul beorigo gasineun nimeun	Dear who abandoned me
십리도 못가서 발병난다.	Simnido motgaseo balbyeongnanda.	Shall not walk even 10 miles before their feet hurt.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song Arirang. The first staff contains the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

A - ri-rang A - ri-rang A-ra - ri - yo\_\_\_\_\_ A - ri-rang go - gae-ro\_ neo - meo-gan - da.

9 Na - reul beo-ri-go ga - si-neunnim - eun\_\_\_\_\_ Sim - ni-do\_ mot-ga - seo\_ bal - byeong-nan - da.

## Traditional Korean Musical Instruments

Over decades of Korean dynasties, various traditional musical instruments were used to play different traditional Korean musical genres, such as pansori and sanjo. These genres of traditional Korean music involve playing various musical instruments along with singing in a stylistic manner.

- *Gayageum* - This is a well-known traditional Korean string instrument played by plucking its 12 strings. There are also *gayageums* with 25 or less strings.
- *Buk* - This is a traditional Korean drum used especially in *pansori* to accompany a singer. The drum is made of a round wooden boy with animal skin hit by sticks made of birch.
- *Janggu* - An hourglass-shaped drum used in most traditional Korean music. The sticks or mallets used to play this drum were originally made from bamboo, and the drum made from animal skin.
- *Daegeum* - This is a large bamboo flute used in various traditional Korean music for purposes of court, folk, and performance music.
- *Haegum* - A traditional Korean string instrument that has a wooden sound box and two strings made of silk. It is played vertically on the knee.
- *Taepyeongso* - This is a double reed wind instrument from Korea, similarly resembling a trumpet horn. Its body is made of wood and the mouthpiece and bell are made of metal.
- *Voice* - This is an important instrument used in pansori music. The voice uses a specific style in tones and inflections in order to effectively and authentically storytell.

## Buchaechum

*Buchaechum* is a traditional Korean fan dance which consists of female dancers wearing hanbok, traditional Korean dress, and elegantly dancing with fans. It gets its name from the *buchae*, which means “fan,” and *chum*, which means “dance”. As the dancers are dancing, their graceful movements and brightly colored fans create the imagery of flowers and butterflies.

UCLA KCN 2015: [https://youtu.be/HHyKdupRAgM?si=HX3\\_B-0LPxIQ97h](https://youtu.be/HHyKdupRAgM?si=HX3_B-0LPxIQ97h)

## Bringing to the Classroom

### Materials

- Colored or blank papers
- Colorful markers
- 1-2 fans per student

With these materials, *Buchaechum* can easily be brought to the classroom at any level! Paper can be found at any department store or in the office or even at home. Colorful markers can also be found at any department store and can be used to decorate the fans to portray the flowers and butterflies this dance mimics. Finally, 1-2 fans per student allow for all students to participate in the activity and practice traditional Korean fan dancing!

## K-pop (Korean Pop Music)

K-pop, or Korean popular music, is a musical genre from South Korea. This musical genre has been around for decades, but only recently became globally popular in the 2010s. From Psy’s “Gangnam Style” to BTS’ “Dynamite”, K-pop quickly became a global phenomenon and it continues to be a growing musical genre that the world participates in. In fact, the performative aspect of K-pop has also attracted the world, as these K-pop musical performances involve both singing and dancing.

### SONG: Dynamite

- A Korean pop song, or K-pop song, sung and performed by BTS
- BTS, or Bangtan Sonyeondan, is a South Korean K-pop boy group
- This song is performed by both singing and dancing simultaneously
- The lyrics are in English and express coming together to dance and enjoy music together!

### Lyrics

'Cause I-I-I'm in the stars tonight  
So watch me bring the fire and set the night alight  
Shining through the city with a little funk and soul  
So I'm a light it up like dynamite, whoa oh oh

## Creating A K-pop Rap

Life is sweet as **honey**

Yeah , this beat **cha-ching like money**

Disco overload, **I'm into that, I'm good to go,**

I'm diamond, you know I **glow up**

Life is sweet as \_\_\_\_\_

Yeah, this beat \_\_\_\_\_

Disco overload, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

I'm diamond, you know I \_\_\_\_\_

## Resources

### Opening:

Arirang (performed on KBS or Korean Broadcasting System): <https://youtu.be/5xGSngr275c?si=ppVTx4tZr6iCa3ep>

Arirang (performed by Song So-Hee): [https://youtu.be/H\\_2yhCjGQuQ?si=jjf4qQfhrNMbNae](https://youtu.be/H_2yhCjGQuQ?si=jjf4qQfhrNMbNae)

eight (performed by IU): <https://youtu.be/tJM0yIbg8iQ?si=B8Tw3sNNNE7WEWev>

Boy With Luv (performed by BTS): <https://youtu.be/XsX3ATc3FbA?si=V931LZqwO3fSgKF>

Dynamite (performed by BTS): <https://youtu.be/gdZLi9oWNZg?si=5wQ0oXcE4DkxMzaf>

### World Music Pedagogy:

Roberts, J. C. & Beegle, A. (2018). *World Music Pedagogy, Volume II: Elementary Music Education*. New York: Routledge.

Howard, K. & Jamey K. (2018). *World Music Pedagogy, Volume III: Secondary School Innovations*. New York: Routledge.

Montemayor, M., Coppola, W. J. & Mena, C. (2018). *World Music Pedagogy, Volume IV: Instrumental music education*. New York: Routledge.

Bartolome, S. J. (2019). *World Music Pedagogy, Volume V: Choral music education*. New York: Routledge

### Korea Geography:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Korea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Korea)

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2021/04/29/key-facts-about-asian-americans/>

<https://usafacts.org/articles/the-diverse-demographics-of-asian-americans/>

### Traditional Korean Music Ensemble Video:

Pansori: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UgNOvHx4\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UgNOvHx4_c)

Pansori with Sinawi Ensemble: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBZztzVfD4g>

Sanjo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdOBqPtxGg4>

### Traditional Korean Music Instruments:

<https://ling-app.com/ko/korean-traditional-musical-instruments/>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/503797>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/500729>

<https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20220714000794>

### Sounds of Traditional Korean Music Instruments:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/korea-traditional-musical-instruments-national-gugak-center-gugakwon/QQXBWFVCGDVvKQ?hl=en>

### Fan Dancing (*Buchaechum*) Video:

<https://youtu.be/wIqgLnu25gw?si=ZTQbW4IOJTtuysJXz>

### Dynamite videos:

Dynamite Lyrics Video: <https://youtu.be/Mzk6KkyxXC8?si=9MpbQc4FRhVTAdOP>

Dynamite Karaoke: <https://youtu.be/V9aFf48jLPQ?si=arqJVhTZMLsmEjvR>

Dynamite Performance by BTS: <https://youtu.be/e81ad5MpfQ0?si=vXMQMbCF1vE11WRa>