

CHRISTOPHER HALE - RITUAL DIAMONDS EPK

Award-winning bassist-composer Christopher Hale's latest project Ritual Diamonds reimagines Korean ritual drumming and contemporary jazz, creating a music that is mysterious, complex and beautiful. Built within an intricate rhythmic world, the music is adorned with stirring melodies, virtuosic improvisation and epic, emotional scope.

After a chance backstage encounter at a Korean festival in 2012, Christopher Hale and Minyoung Woo quickly bonded over a fascination with rhythm. "We connected immediately," recalls Hale, "Minyoung shared with me her deep knowledge of shaman ritual drumming styles and traditional rhythms. I shared with her the rhythms of my communities in Australia: the flamenco cycles of my background and the mathematical rhythm codes of [influential Australian percussionist] Greg Sheehan – our friendship grew, and in restaurants, bars, on buses, we had fun with rhythm."

More than just learning each other's patterns or repertoire, the pair were sharing how their rhythms worked, revealing common musical ground deep beneath the surface differences of their respective styles. The connections between Korean ritual drumming, flamenco drama and playful rhythmic puzzles suggested a new common language for rhythm, unique to their friendship.

BIOS

Christopher Hale – electric bass – Christopher Hale has been called "one of the most unique and respected musicians in Australia" (Glam Adelaide), an "unconventional virtuoso of the bass guitar" (The Age), "Australian jazz heavyweight and a brilliant, groundbreaking composer" (Rhythms Magazine).

Growing up playing Brazilian, Afro-Cuban music and flamenco, Hale has always involved himself deeply in musical traditions, drawing on deep understandings of these styles to influence a personal approach for jazz and improvisation. He has performed alongside international artists Sting, Jamey Haddad, Jim Black, Virgil Donati, Jo Lawry, Bae Il Dong, Brad Shepik and Jojo Mayer among many others. He is a vital part of the Australian music community, regularly performing with Andrea Keller, Julien Wilson, Paul Grabowsky, Scott Tinkler, Simon Barker, Jamie Oehlers and Gian Slater.

Hale received an Australia Council Fellowship in 2004, and in 2012 was awarded the prestigious Freedman Fellowship for Jazz, Australian music's "genius grant" (Music Forum). He holds a PhD from the University of Sydney and is an Associate Artist with the Australian Art Orchestra and a faculty leader for its annual Creative Music Intensive educational residency. He has four albums as leader, including the critically acclaimed Sylvan Coda (2012).

Minyoung Woo – janggu: Minyoung Woo is a multi-award-winning Korean traditional musician, committed to communicating with audiences beyond nationality. She began playing the Janggu (Korean hourglass-shaped drum) at 9 years old, graduating from Seoul's Gugak (Traditional music) National Middle High School. She studied classical court music, chamber, folk music, contemporary music and shaman music at the Korea National University of Arts. She was the winner of Korea's major rhythm competition and has collaborated with traditional and contemporary artists in Indonesia, Mongolia, Thailand, France, Mexico and Australia.

Staging: Venue to provide backline

Show Duration: 60min

Touring Party: 6

Available: 2023

Contact: Christopher Hale, 0418 575 334 christof_hale@yahoo.com

Resources:

- Bio (as above)
- [Tech specs](#)
- [Images](#)

