



BATON DIPLOMACY. *Clark College students and representatives recently spent six days at Dankook University in Yongin City, south of Seoul, where they performed three concerts to sold-out audiences and toured cultural sites throughout the region. (Photo courtesy of the Clark College Music Department)*

Clark College Music Department returns from tour of South Korea

Representatives of the Clark College Music Department recently returned from leading a large group of students on a concert tour to South Korea. Students spent six days at Dankook University in Yongin City, south of Seoul, where they performed three concerts to sold-out audiences and toured cultural sites throughout the region.

Eighty-eight students — including 47 members of the Concert Band, 23 students from the Women's Choral Ensemble, and 18 musicians from the Vocal Jazz Ensemble — travelled to Korea for the series of three concerts, which were attended by upwards of 2,500 people.

The relationship between Clark College and Dankook University began last September when students from the Korean university's Gyung-gi Youth Traditional Music Orchestra visited Clark College.

Dankook University subsequently invited members of the Clark College Music Department to bring a group of students to perform in Korea.

The concert program, entitled "From Sea to Shining Sea," showcased the student groups performing songs representative of American heritage as well as some Korean tunes. The program ended with the entire group combining to perform Aaron Copland's "The Promise of Living" and Carmen Dragon's rendition of "America the Beautiful."

"It was truly an experience of a lifetime for our music students," said band director Rich Inouye. "Not only did they realize the fortitude it takes to enter the stage night after night and produce to their full potential as professional musicians, but they also received an invaluable opportunity to get a sense of life on the road as a travelling performer.

"I was extremely proud how the students performed both musically and socially," Inouye continued. "It was really fulfilling to witness their reaction to the Korean culture and the experience they gained from it."

In addition to organizing performance venues and equipment requirements for the tour, Professor Yoon Myung-won, the conductor of the Gyung-gi Youth Traditional Music Orchestra, enlisted Dankook students as tour guides and arranged tours of the National Center for Korean Traditional Performing Arts, the Gyeonggido Korean Folk Village, the Gyeonggido Natural History Museum, and the National Museum of Seoul.

For more information about the Clark College Music Department, visit www.clark.edu/academics/programs/humanities/music/index.php.