

Minchan Kim

JAZZ DRUMMER & COMPOSER · SEOUL / NEW YORK / EUROPE

PROFILE

Minchan Kim is a jazz drummer and composer who works on the international stage, moving between Seoul, New York and Europe. Born in Daejeon, he majored in drums in the Department of Postmodern Music at Kyung Hee University, then earned a master's degree in jazz drums at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich (Hochschule für Musik und Theater München) in Germany. After his master's degree he moved his base to New York, joined the local jazz scene as a professional player, and has widened his musical range by exchanging ideas and performing with a wide variety of New York musicians.

In 2012 he was named a Rising Star by JazzPeople Magazine and was selected as a CJ Cultural Foundation scholarship recipient. In 2023 he won second place at the Kurt Maas Jazz Award.

He has performed in more than 35 countries and about 100 cities, including Smalls, Mezzrow and Jazz Forum in New York and Marians Jazzroom in Bern, Switzerland, and has taken part in major international jazz festivals including the New York John Coltrane Jazz Festival, London Jazz Festival, Edinburgh Jazz Festival and Torino Jazz Festival. He has performed and toured with world-class musicians including Don Menza, Jesse Davis, Peter Washington, Tony Lakatos, Kenny Washington, Jim Snidero, Alain Jean-Marie, Anthony Wonsey, John Webber and Steve Carrington.

He currently leads the Minchan Kim Trio and also works actively as a sideman for many other musicians. He also continues to teach, training the next generation at the Graduate School of Jazz at Hanyang University and at Dankook University.

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PHOTOS

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