

SEGUE: Angela Kim to present Chaos Magick

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EDWARDSVILLE — On this week's episode of Segue, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's weekly radio program exploring the lives and work of the people on campus and beyond, Greg Budzban, PhD, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) dean, interviews Angela Kim, DMA, assistant professor of piano in the Department of Music.

This episode of Segue airs at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15. Listeners can tune in to WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound or sue.edu/wsie.

After falling in love with playing the piano at age three, Kim has dedicated her career to the instrument while showing versatility through colorful imagination and intense musical expression. She completed her bachelor's, master's and graduate diploma at the New England Conservatory of Music. Later, she earned a doctorate of piano performance and literature at the Eastman School of Music. She has performed throughout the United States,

South America, Italy, Germany, Austria and Korea.

"What brought you to SIUE?" inquires Budzban. "Tell us about your musical background and how you became a professor of piano."

"I was born and raised in Korea," explains Kim. "At some point, I wanted to go to the United States to study not only English but also art and music, as well. When I was 15, I came here by myself and attended Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Boston, fully delving into the music industry at a very young age."

"Did you have music training before you came to the United States?" asks Budzban.

"Definitely," responds Kim. "I started playing piano when I was three-years-old. I started quite early because I wanted to do what my older sister was doing, but quickly fell in love with music and the instrument. Since then, I never wanted to become anything other than a pianist."

After attaining her doctorate, Kim ventured into teaching music theory at her alma mater, the New England Conservatory of Music. During this time, she applied to a posting for teaching

piano at SIUE before making the move to the Midwest. Currently, she's preparing for the showing of Chaos Magick, a multimedia production that integrates live piano performances with design, animation, electronic sound and dance.

"Can you tell us about the concept of Chaos Magick?" asks Budzban, "What led you to multimedia productions like this?"

"Everyone involved wanted to create a new kind of performing art experience with multiple different disciplines," answers Kim. "Music has always been something more than music to me. Sometimes music is an extremely visual experience to me, and sometimes it is quite a physical experience. As artists, this is our way to share how we experience and interpret music."

"That's fascinating," says Budzban. "Did you have any experience with multimedia productions before you began this project?"

"My older sister is a visual artist, and my dad's hobby was drawing and painting, as well," says Kim. "We started going to the art gallery and modern art museum at a young age. I'm absolutely grateful for that, as it's been a big part of my life."

"When I was a sophomore in college, I first participated in creating a multimedia show in a warehouse. There were projectors and screens all over the walls, and I played the piano in the middle of it. It was a perfect, immersive space where people could experience music and art at the same time as they're surrounded by it physically and sound-wise."

Since then, Kim has continued to work with visual artists to produce multimedia productions. For Chaos Magick, she has teamed with New York-based artists Michael Robert Boswell and Peter John Kearney. The project also features a piece by composer Dan Van Hassel and choreography from Kevin Hockenberry, assistant professor in the Department of Theater and Dance.

"What was the collaboration process like?" inquires Budzban.

"One of the difficult aspects of a multimedia project is having a conversation with all artists involved and creating something that makes everyone happy," responds Kim. "Creating the best show ever is not as important to me as creating something that we all feel happy and proud of."

"One of the best things to do in this kind of multimedia project is to let the artists breathe and give them room to be creative rather than being too specific. Things come together on their own, and this fits our title, Chaos Magick. Between chaos and order is a magical moment of synergy, and that's what we're aiming for."

Chaos Magick will be presented on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in SIUE's Dunham Hall Theater. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit siue.edu/arts-and-issues.

Tune in at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15, to WSIE 88.7 The Sound to hear the entire conversation.