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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Korea's 'Living National Treasure' Yi Mae Bang
To Make Rare U.S. Appearance and New York Debut
in *Global Beat of the Boroughs: Korea*
March 14, 2004 5:00PM**

Peter Norton Symphony Space Theater
2537 Broadway at West 95th Street, Manhattan

Tickets: www.symphonyspace.org or (212) 864-5400
Information: (212) 571-1555 ext. 46 or www.ctmd.org

February 11th, 2004, New York, NY — In his 2nd long-awaited U.S. appearance **Yi Mae Bang**, Korea's most celebrated dancer, will take center stage at the Peter Norton Symphony Space on Sunday, March 14 to present his inspired interpretation of the Korean shaman dance known as *salp'uri* and the *sungmu* monk dance. Presented by the **Center for Traditional Music and Dance (CTMD)** in partnership with the **Korean Traditional Performing Arts Association (KTPAA)**, the performances mark Yi Mae Bang's first U.S. appearance in 13 years. The concert will also feature Yi's protege, Sue-Yeon Park who will lead the New York based **Sounds of Korea** a nationally acclaimed ensemble specializing in Korean traditional arts, including vocal and instrumental music, dance and the vigorous *poongmul nori* folk drumming.

For over 65 years, Yi Mae Bang has embodied the resilience of the Korean dance tradition during the most turbulent period of modern Korean history. A quintessential traditional Korean dancer, whose movements reflect the ideal of a spiritualized inner energy, Yi has worked all his life to preserve the two most well known Korean folk dances: *Sungmu* ("Monk Dance"), which comes from the Buddhist tradition, and *Salp'uri*, derived from Shamanic rituals. Yi has been designated a "Living National Treasure" by the Korean government for his contributions to preserving these two major dance forms. It is an honor to be designated for even one category and being so designated in two categories is the highest honor for the traditional arts in Korea. According to Yi, the essence of traditional Korean dance is "stillness in movement" or "non-movement through movement." Through dance, he expresses the dichotomy of yin and yang; light and dark; power and grace.

Yi's training involved intensive exposure to the dances of China, Japan and the West and he has played a unique role as a leading dance educator. His students include leaders in the contemporary dance field in Korea, as well as Koreans pursuing dance careers in the United States. Among them is dancer and choreographer Sue-Yeon Park, who was awarded the title of *Yisuja* — an official apprentice of Master Yi's performance lineage of *salp'uri* dancer. Sue-Yeon is also the director of the acclaimed Sounds of Korea, the performing ensemble of the New York based KTPAA. On March 14th, she will lead Sounds of Korea in a multifaceted performance across the ensemble's repertoire.

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The **Korean Traditional Performing Arts Association (KTPAA)** strives to preserve, cultivate and disseminate Korean cultural arts in the United States. Its members are individuals from the Korean community who are dedicated to promoting intercultural understanding and appreciation of Korea's artistic heritage and history. The association has played an instrumental role in instilling pride in Korean culture to second generation Korean Americans and Korean adoptees, and in fostering intercultural dialog with American society at large. KTPAA was founded in 1986 and incorporated in 1993. With support from the New York State Council on Arts and sponsors in the Korean community, the association offers instruction in Korean folk dance and music to first and second-generation Koreans-American students.

Global Beat of the Boroughs: Korea is third in the ***Global Beat of the Boroughs*** series celebrating the breadth of world music and dance traditions found throughout New York City. The series features an array of concerts spotlighting highly regarded cultural ambassadors of music and dance from West Africa, South America, Asia and the Caribbean. Two issues of *Global Beat of the Boroughs*, a Smithsonian Folkways Recordings CD series, produced by the Center for Traditional Music and Dance, are currently available. The next CD release, *Quisqueya en el Hudson*, is slated for May 2004.

Global Beat of the Boroughs: Korea will feature two concerts: a Family Concert at 1:00PM with Sounds of Korea only, and a Main Concert at 5:00PM with both Sounds of Korea and Yi Mae Bang.

TICKETS:

March 14, 2004 Global Beat of the Boroughs: Korea

5:00PM Main Concert featuring Yi Mae Bang and Sounds of Korea
\$26; \$21 for students, seniors; CTMD members

1:00PM Family Concert featuring Sounds of Korea
\$10 Adults; \$5 Children

All Shows at Peter Norton Symphony Space 95th Street and Broadway in Manhattan

Tickets: (212) 864-5400 or visit www.symphonyspace.org.

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NEXT UP!

May 22, 2004 Global Beat of the Boroughs: Dominican Republic

This *Global Beat of the Boroughs* 2004 grand finale Dominican concert and family workshop will feature NY's best!: Luis Dias; Coco Merenson; Conjunto Folklórico de la Alianza Dominicana with Doña Chicha. The concert marks the release of the new Smithsonian Folkways CD, *Global Beat of the Boroughs: Quisqueya en el Hudson*.

Now in its 35th year, the **Center for Traditional Music and Dance** builds cross cultural awareness by nurturing and preserving the performing arts traditions indigenous to New York City's immigrant and ethnic communities. A cornerstone of the Center's mission is to present premier artists from the City's diverse cultural communities and to develop performance and educational programs for general and community audiences. For more information on the Center and its programs, please visit www.ctmd.org or call 212-571-1555.

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