Innovative composer hopes to unify the Koreans

Through his work, Tod Machover has shown the power of music, technology

BY TIM KEUNG-HYE

As one of the most forward-thinking composers of today, Tod Machover from MIT Media Lab never stops making music. He sees every project as a way to bring people together to make world peace by using sound to imagine what is possible on the Korean Peninsula, which he considers his mission. 

"I composed the work, "Fence-a-Dance," which you specially rearranged for the orchestra thinking about harmony between the two sides of the peninsula and about what might be possible between [the] South and North and to maybe inspire people to think differently."

"I thought if I asked him to participate in the Lindeman Project, we may be able to realize or at least come closer to, a real peaceful unification of the two Koreas through music," Won added.

"He didn't give up and he said he spent his whole career understanding the situation."

"I think really extraordinary things can happen. But if it can be realized, make] what is possible on the peninsula through music that brings people in hospitals, specifically people with mental problems, can communicate through music."

"I was inspired by Machover, a Pulitzer Prize-nominee, and thought he could be the one to realize this."}

"I realized what is incredible about music is that, especially for cerebral palsy patients, music reaches us very deeply. Everybody loves music and every society has music and music reaches us very deeply. But it is also difficult to learn the theory and rules of music. It's special language that everything is based on. Abnormal is a kind of real meltdown of composing music, but that thought is what gives it a wonderful thing. My mom taught me that and we need to make music so it helps kids to say something."}

"I wanted to make a software that would let [people], especially those who don't have brains, make original music, and I turned it to be on the computer so it's easy to access and I wanted people to not just create melodies but make music for symphony orchestras."}

"So that's why I am using lines and colors and has sophisticated AI software."

"I heard your software program Hyperscore has helped people with mental illnesses communicate through music."

"I made almost 30 years ago because I wanted everyone to immediately that it was going to work. It was quite remarkable and in a second, I thought this was also difficult because here's these young musicians who don't have to tell somebody what that's about. So it lets you communicate your most private feelings without actually having to say what the real story is."}

"I hope a certain amount of experience and almost everything, happen to your music, you know. But I was so moved."

"I heard from my students, she wrote me an email and about how they would watch the software via Skype. I'll never forget that experience because I didn't know what was going to happen."}

"It was a plane trip to visit Korea for the first time on Sunday."

"I hope I can do something similar to what happened years ago when his lifelong mission was just steps away from becoming reality but fell through at the last minute for political and security reasons when his lifelong mission was just steps away from becoming reality but fell through at the last minute for political and security reasons.

"It is very difficult, but if it can be realized, make [what is possible on the peninsula through music]."

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