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# June Yun

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*“MUSIC IS POWER, it is the most powerful and influential language on earth.”* You would notice the passion and belief that she has in music within this sentence which she kept as her motto from the start of her music career. **June Yun**, an up-and-coming New York based **vocalist • composer • educator** has finally put together her works of art into one, after years of sincere and earnest attitude in composing and arranging. Yun’s music has changed very much throughout her career, and after a wide spectrum of education and exploration in many different genres in music, she describes her music to be what she thinks is her “own sound”.

Yun was introduced to classical music at an early age, influenced by her father who loved music and collected antique audio sets and vinyl. *“I still remember the little audio room that my dad had when we were living in London. On the weekends, my family would just sit there all day with lots of tea and listen to my dad’s LPs. Mainly classical music. I would sing along to whatever he played all day.”*

Yun was born in South Korea and moved to the U.K. when she was five. She explains that out of all the musical experiences she had in her childhood, she thinks that going to see *The Phantom of the Opera* at *Her Majesty’s Theater* was the moment she knew that she would be stuck with the joy of singing for the rest of her life. *“I remember singing over and over to the melody of the musical after coming back home. It was stuck in my head. After a while, my dad bought me the LP (Phantom of the Opera-original cast), and I would listen to it every day and sing along to it looking at the lyric sheet that was in there. I guess my mum was a bit annoyed when I wouldn’t come to have dinner because I was so into the music.”* After moving back to South Korea, she explored other genres in music such as pop, R&B and Soul. Yun went to a music college in Korea and developed skills in song-writing (mainly pop and R&B) and lyric writing. She also worked as a co-producer & administrative director for Avenue D&F Productions.

After graduating from college, Yun released a collaboration project debut single with a famous Korean singer from the 90s, Seunghwa Park. The whole project was sponsored by KBS, the biggest national broadcasting TV & Radio channel in Korea. After the release, she received many calls from record labels but she thought there was something missing in herself and her music so she decided to explore and adventure. *“In a musician’s point of view, I always thought that the quality or level of music differs from whether you learned jazz or not. Learning jazz is endless, you’ll never understand jazz entirely, it’s a continuing process. I knew that I couldn’t learn jazz in Korea since the music wasn’t from there. So, I flew to New York, where jazz was still happening and was alive.”*

At the start of her journey, being introduced to jazz and NYC, Yun had very little knowledge and many questions to what jazz was. Being a person with tremendous curiosity in learning, she explored both traditional jazz and the music that was happening in NYC and absorbed it quickly. She explains that after a while of diving into something that has not too many answers, the questions that were ringing in her head such as “What is jazz?”, “What does jazz sound like?” made much more sense. *“There never was an answer to this question, except being myself, and sounding like myself. The music that we call jazz nowadays and even when it was the music that we picture in our mind, is and was just one’s music that can truly express who you are and who you want to be. It’s a language, a form of sound that can be understood if you listen carefully enough. It’s a language that is so distinct and endlessly adventurous.”*



Since the start of her journey in jazz, Yun has explored and built up her own repertoire in jazz and composed originals, mostly influenced by traditional and modern jazz, free jazz and her very first music influence, classical music. Yun explains that she is at a point in her career where she's finding out what she cares for and what she wants to speak to the world about. She is organizing her own philosophy of how she sees the world and what can make the community/society we live in, better. *"One of my strengths is that I love to listen to other people's thoughts, and I believe that people with great humanity always goes far beyond others and makes their community brighter. I wake up every day wanting to be that kind of person, a better person, that can bond our community and the world we live in. After being able to be that kind of person. I want to communicate about what I truly care for. Playing, singing and writing music has lead me to create my own way of communicating to world."*

Yun has studied and performed with some of the most influential musicians including Jean Baylor, Theo Bleckmann, Shai Maestro, Joel Ross, Ingrid Jensen, Amy London, Mike Moreno, Jeremy Manasia and Dr. Richard Harper. She has been performing and teaching a wide range of music including her original music, traditional and modern jazz, contemporary pop and R&B, K-pop, classical music, Korean traditional music, film music, and musical theater. Yun has performed at some of the most well-known jazz clubs and halls in NYC including Dizzy's Jazz at Lincoln Center, Smalls Jazz club, John Tishman Auditorium, Mercury Lounge, and more. Yun currently holds a BFA degree with honors from the New School for Jazz and Contemporary music, and has recently received her Masters degree from Manhattan School of Music. Yun has also studied music education during her studies at Manhattan School of music and has been teaching music for 8 years. Her passion in teaching and commitment towards music education has made many of her students grow.

Her compositional debut album, **"Enlightenment - Solid Waves"** was released on October 27th, 2023. The album includes a total of 8 original pieces composed and arranged by Yun. She invited Shai Maestro (piano), Kanoa Mendenhall (bass), Jongkuk Kim (drums), Vid Jammik (vibraphone), Brad Kang (guitar) and Nicola Caminiti (alto sax) to be on board.

*"Similar to one's feelings and thoughts, the meaning and emotions that people have towards **Light and Dark** is very personal and it is very difficult to accurately understand and translate directly. Light and Dark coexists. Light and dark do not stay in one place, it flows and circulates as time passes. The compositions in this album picture these various abstract forms of light and dark within the scope that I built. This project started as a study towards finding the many feelings and thoughts that were lost and couldn't be described due to the fast moving society that we live in. Wanting to live with awareness, I took time to find myself, my feelings and thoughts and built a palette. This album is to remind myself to be present and aware, and to remind myself of this journey I took to learn how to do so.*

*A lot of the "light" aspects that I talk about relate to the people and community around me and how their bright energy helped me recover from any darkness I had faced in the past. Without you, this music cannot exist. I am truly grateful to all the people in my life who have been there for me. This music is for you."*

Prior to releasing the full length album in October, she released **"Light Cycle"** (track 8) and **"Light In Your Eyes"** (track 7) to meet her audience and announce her debut. More about June Yun, her music, upcoming dates for her tour can be found on her website ([juneyunmusic.com](http://juneyunmusic.com)) or on her social media (@the.juney.effect).

