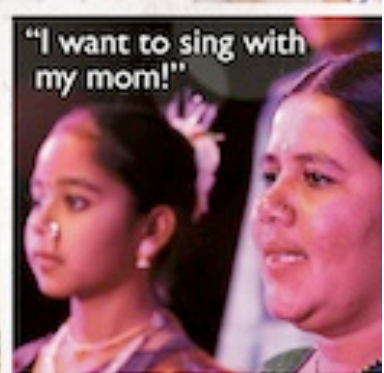




Singing with **ANGRY BIRD**

TO LAUGH OR TO CRY...
THAT IS THE QUESTION

"Concert is no joke!"
- Jae-Chang Kim, a.k.a. Angry Bird



PRESS KIT



Singing with Angry Bird

A heart-warming journey of a passionate Korean opera singer, his delightful choir children and their parents in the slums of India

PROGRAM SUMMARY

- **Genre:** HD Documentary (Human Interest + Music)
- **Program Length:** 88 minutes/ 52 minutes
- **Completion Date:** Oct. 2016 (88') / Aug. 2017 (52')
- **Production Team:** Director - Hyewon Jee / Producer - Sunah Kim
- **Production Company:** Upright Media Production
- **Production Support:**
 - Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning
 - Korea Communications Agency
 - Broadcasting Content Promotion Foundation
- **In Association with** NHK & NHK Enterprises
- **Trailer Link:** <https://vimeo.com/171540510>
- **Worldwide Sales:** Outlook Filmsales

LOGLINE

Five years ago, a Korean opera singer, a.k.a. Angry Bird, started a children's choir in India. Frustrated by the lack of support from the parents, he decides to train the parents to sing for a joint concert. But it may be the toughest challenge of his life.

SYNOPSIS

Jae-Chang Kim runs a Children's Choir in Pune, India. Although his quick temper earned him a nickname 'Angry Bird,' he has made significant changes in the lives of the choir children. But their parents don't recognize the benefit and often try to pull their children out of the choir. In order to convince the parents, Angry Bird decides to train them to sing for a joint concert with their children. The film follows a 15-month-long journey from the first parents' meeting to the final concert. There are many challenges presented by the lack of time, talent, and commitment. Nevertheless, music brings parents and children closer together, providing a vibrant contrast to the everyday reality of the slums.

■ KEY CHARACTERS

1. Jae-Chang Kim a.k.a. Angry Bird (60)

Jae-Chang Kim is an established opera singer with critical acclaim. In 2006, a Korean NGO organization offered Kim to work with the children of the slums in Africa. He took up the challenge, went to Korogocho, Kenya and established the *Jirani Children's Choir*. It was a huge success. In 2010, he found his own NGO and started a new children's choir with the children of the Untouchables in Pune, India. Although his quick temper earned him a nickname, 'Angry bird,' he's beloved by his choir children and has been making significant changes in their lives.



2. Sinduja & Her Parents (Ramalu Rathod & Alvela)

Sinduja is the most brilliant girl in the *Banana Children's Choir*. She loves to sing and wants to sing with her parents. But it is difficult for her hardworking parents to find time for choir practice. Besides, they don't seem to have any musical talents.



3. Rahul & His Family (Hanumant Walikar, Sonabai & Rupali)

Rahul is a new member of the children's choir with a promising voice. His father is enthusiastic about the parents' choir, and looks forward to the joint concert. Unfortunately a series of bad incidents keeps him away from the choir.



4) Manali & Her family (Mary Pawar & Stutti)

Manali has been with the choir for three years. She lives with her mom and younger sister. Her mom works three jobs to support the family. In order to help mom, Manali decides to quit the choir. But when her music-loving mom get to sing a solo piece, she changes her mind.



■ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have known Kim and his choir children for many years. I have already produced two TV programs about this Korean conductor Jae-Chang Kim and his children's choirs – one about *Jirani Children's Choir* of Kenya in 2009, and the other about *Banana Children's Choir* of India in 2013. I was deeply moved by his strong commitment and the positive changes he made for the children.

When I learned about his new initiative with the parents, I naturally wanted to document the journey. During the production, I was touched by many events and had a chance to reflect on my own relationship with my mother. I also witnessed the changes in the parents and their relationship with their children. Singing and dancing brought lots of joy and laughter and planted a seed of hope to these hardworking people. I am now very happy to share this story with the world audience.

■ PRODUCTION TEAM

Director : Hyewon Jee



Hyewon Jee is an International Emmy nominated director who has been working in Korean TV industry for over 20 years. She started her career at a prominent documentary production company in 1995 and later briefly worked as a commissioning editor for TV Chosun network. In 2008, she left the network and established an independent production company to focus on making stories that are dear to her heart. *Singing with Angry Bird* is her first feature-length documentary.

Hyewon Jee's Filmography includes:

- *Korean Architect Kim Sookeun* (1999) – KBS Program of Excellence Award
- 5 Documentaries for "Human Theater" Series (2000)
- *Pizza Aunt in Rome* (2002) – Korean Broadcasting Commission Award
- *KBS World Cup Special* (2002) – KBS Program of Excellence Award
- *Wonderful Lessons – Youngjae O'Neil and Nakdong Children* (2010) - YWCA Good TV Program Award
- *Asian Women are the Future* (2012) – Gender Equality Encouragement Award
- *Can we learn from Ghandi's Diet?* (2013) – Screened at the Kuchnia TV Food Film Fest in Poland
- *Mom and Clarinet* (2015) - New York TV & Film Festival Award "Gold Medal" & "UNDPI", YMCA Award "The Best TV Program of the Year", Korea Producer's Award "The Best Independent Documentary" & International Emmy Awards Nominee for Documentary, 2016.

- **Producer : Sunah Kim**



Sunah Kim is a Korean-American producer, currently working in South Korea. She started her producing career in New York as a narrative film producer. Since 2006, she has worked on over 50 documentaries as a U.S. local producer for various TV channels in South Korea. She also created a talk show series about Korean-Americans for cable channels in five states. In 2013, she moved back to Korea to make a documentary about a Korean monk/philosopher and is currently involved in various documentary projects.

Sunah Kim's filmography includes;

- *Kung Fu Granny*, a short fiction film by Myra Sito Velasquez, 2009 (Producer)
- *This is a Story about Ted and Alice*, a short fiction film by Teresa Tunney, 2010 (Producer)
- *Should've Kissed*, a feature film by Jinoh Park, 2010 (Producer)
- *The Portfolio*, a TV talk show series, 2012~2013 (Producer/Director)
- *Seoul Searching*, a Narrative Feature Film by Benson Lee, 2010 (Co-producer)
- *Singing with Angry Bird*, a documentary feature, 2016 (Producer)
- *Wonhyo & Me: A spiritual journey of a non-religious being*, a documentary feature, currently in post-production (Producer/Director)

- **Production Company: Upright Media Production**

Upright Media Production is an independent production company based in Seoul, South Korea. It was established in March 2008 by a wife-and-husband team, Hyewon Jee and Wooyong Song, both of whom were veteran TV producers with over 20 years of experience. Over the last eight years, they have produced numerous programs for all the major Korean broadcasters and won many awards. They are specialized in strong character-driven documentaries with cultural and human interest stories. They are currently developing feature-length documentaries that can appeal to a global audience.

▣ PROJECT STATUS

The production started in January, 2015. The principal photography was completed in August 2016. This project was selected for the 2015 IDFA Forum Round Table and won the Best Pitch Award. It was also selected for the 2016 IDFA Summer Academy's Editing Consultancy program and was mentored by an eminent editor Jesper Osmund. The feature-length version is completed in October 2016. The TV version (52 minutes) will be available in fall 2017.

CONTACT INFO

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- **International Distribution:** Outlook Filmsales



Where there's music, there can be no evil.