Youn Sun Nah

Magnificent Jazz Vocalist

"Youn Sun Nah is a UFO touching the universe of music with a magnificent voice and passionate originality."
– Yann Plougastel, Le Monde

Said Germany’s Stern magazine, “How many emotions fit in one voice? When Youn Sun Nah sings, her voice is disconnected from the body. Present like a being of its own, it elates and aches—whispers and shouts. Simply pure, musical magic.” France’s “Le Monde” went further. “Youn Sun Nah is a UFO touching the universe of music with a magnificent voice and passionate originality.” Awarded Gold Disk from both Germany and France for her album “Lento(2013)”, Youn Sun Nah also conferred ‘La Legion d’honneur Chevalier’ from France Ministry for her contribution to French Culture and Arts. She has been touring more than 100 times a year and stands as a world-class magnificent vocalist. Today Youn Sun Nah performs throughout the world most often in a duo or quintet setting. Following a much-heralded appearance at the International Jazz Day Global Concert 2017 and extensive European tour, as a goodwill ambassador for Gangwon Arirang, she puts an effort to introduce the beauty of Jazz and Korean music to all around the world.

Youn Sun Nah | voice

Booking

Hub Music Agency, Hub Music Inc.

Contact
JJ In | jazzni@hanmail.net / +82 10 4335 8222
Seunghoon Zeon | shzeoni@hubmusicagency.com / +82 10 2615 8138
Lucy SY Yoon | lucy@hubmusicagency.com / +82 31 582 8138

www.hubmusicagency.com/younsunnah
www.younsunnah.com
www.facebook.com/younsunnah.fanpage
Youn Sun Nah is well regarded for her remarkable vocal prowess. The Korean jazz vocalist’s ability to present each song in her own unique style filled with emotions and passion has consistently captured her audience in attentive silence, ending with roaring appreciation. The songstress traverse the vocal spectrum effortlessly to the extent where she’s not just another vocalist, she’s a musical instrument.

Growing up in a musical family where her father was a conductor and her mother, a musical actress, music has always been in her life. Nah eventually began her own musical journey and made her first debut at the tender age of 23 at a joint concert collaborating with the Korean Symphony Orchestra. Though Nah was making waves in the Korean music scene, she decided to move to Paris in 1995 to study jazz and chanson. Nah’s innate talent for jazz began to shine brighter when she started performing extensively in the French jazz scene with her group YSN 5tet at jazz clubs, national theatres and festivals. News of this Korean marvel reached many famous musicians who were excited to collaborate with her. Nah also made a strong showing in a number of jazz concours such as La Défense, St. Maur, Montmartre and the renowned Jazz à Juan Révélations. Many venues and festivals across the globe also recognize Nah’s talents. She has been invited to perform at numerous events such as Jazz at Lincoln Center (New York), International Pori Jazz Festival (Finland), Montreal Jazz Festival (Canada), TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival (Canada), Parc Floral de Paris (France), Marcjac Jazz Festival (France), Mai Jazz Festival (Norway), Cully Jazz Festival (Switzerland), Java Jazz Festival (Indonesia), Penang Island Jazz Festival (Malaysia) and Jarasum International Jazz Festival (South Korea), among many others.

Her 2009 album “Voyage” made it into the French top ten of the jazz charts and won the coveted “CHOC” as CD of the month (Jazzman). One of her paramount recognitions comes from the French government where she was conferred the title Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in recognition of her contributions to the arts in 2009. To date, Youn Sun Nah has released three albums under top German jazz label ACT, “Voyage” (2009), “Same Girl” (2010) and “Lento” (2013). The album “Same Girl” remained in the top 20 of the jazz chart in France over 80 weeks and “Lento” received the German Grammy “ECHO” as best international jazz singer and ranked among the most successful albums of the year. Both of these albums were awarded Gold in France. Today Nah performs throughout the world most often in a duo or quartet setting. Following a much-heralded appearance at the International Jazz Day Global Concert 2017 (Cuba) and extensive European tour, Youn Sun Nah is focusing her attentions on her next album “She Moves On”, released on May 2017.
Videos

- Imagine (IJD 2017, Cuba) - https://youtu.be/q_Up1bHuWuw
- Calypso Blues - https://youtu.be/O2iGwI-lqig
- Momento Magico - https://youtu.be/UgKMdqSUkKc
- Lament - https://youtu.be/AmythXmakoo
- Enter Sandman - https://youtu.be/dVehcCuwZeA
- My Favorite Things - https://youtu.be/p9hRj4TzfA
- Uncertain Weather - https://youtu.be/Mu2Qn4JOfh0
- Breakfast in Baghdad - https://youtu.be/tZkki-mX7uw
- Same Girl - https://youtu.be/XhXCHYyHGkE

Tour

2017  Nice Jazz Festival, Les Sufs à Arles, Jazz à Vienne, Jazz sous les Pommiers, France
       Copenhagen Jazz Festival, Denmark
       TD Ottawa Jazz Festival, Festival International de Jazz de Montreal, Canada
       Rochester Jazz Festival, USA
       Ronnie Scott’s, UK
       The International Jazz Day Global Concert, Cuba
       Triumph of Jazz, Russia

2016  APAP Showcase, USA
       Jazz sous les Pommiers, France

2015  Korea Tour, Guri Arts Hall, Konkuk University New Millenium Hall, Yanghwajin
2014  USA Tour, The Howard Theatre(DC), Blue Note(NY), Monterey Jazz Festival(SF)
      Winter Olympic, Sochi, Russia / Klangvokal Musikfestival, Germany
2013  North America Tour, Yoshi's(SF), TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival, Rockwood Music Hall(NY),
      Rochester International Jazz Festival(NY), Montreal International Jazz Festival
      Théâtre du Châtelet, Jazz à Vienne, France / Enjoy Jazz Festival, ”Women of the World” Festival,
      Germany / Shanghai Jazz Festival, China / 48TH HEINEKEN JAZZALDIA(San Sebastián), Spain
      Jarasum International Jazz Festival, Korea
2012  Red Sea Jazz Festival, Israel / Jazz in Marciac, France
      Cully Jazz Festival, Switzerland / Verbier Festival, Switzerland
2011  France Tour, Alhambra Theatre Music–Hall(Paris), Yzeurespace(Yzeure), Theatre Christian
      Liger(Nimes), Printemps de Bourges(Bourges)
      GRIPS Theater, Germany / Ystad Jazz Festival, Jazz Bridge, Sweden
      Rome Jazz festival, Italy / Usadba Jazz Festival, Russia / Bangkok Jazz Festival, Thailand
      Canada Tour, Le Domaine Forget, Montreal Jazz Festival, Ottawa Jazz Festival, Victoria Jazz Festival,
      TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival
2009  Pori Jazz Festival, Finland
2007  Rose Theater Jazz at Lincoln Center, USA

Awards
2015  Gold for the album “Lento” in France
2014  Korean Music Awards, Best Album of the Year for Jazz, Winner
      Prix culturel France–Corée
      King Sejong Culture Awards President’s commendation in Korea
      CIC Korea Image Awards, Kkotdol Prize, Winner
2013  Gold for the album “Lento” in Germany
2012  The 3rd Pop Culture Awards Prime Minister’s commendation in Korea
2011  Gold for the album “Same Girl” in France
      Echo Jazz Awards in Germany, Best International Female Singer, Winner
      Korean Music Awards, Best Album of the Year for Jazz&Crossover, Winner
2010  Académie du jazz in France, Prix du Jazz Vocal, Winner
      TSF Jazz Radio in France, Best Jazz Vocal of the year, Winner
      BMW Welt Jazz Awards, Second Prize, Winner
      BMW Welt Jazz Awards, Publikumspreis(Public Prize), Winner
      Korean Music Awards, Best Album of the Year for Jazz&Crossover, Winner
2009  Chevalier(Knight) de l’ordre des Arts
      Korean Music Awards, Best Album of the Year for Jazz&Crossover, Winner
2006  Korean Music Awards, Netizen’s Choice, Winner
2005  Jazz a Juan Revelations 2005, Premier Prix du Jury, Categorie Jazz Vocal, Winner
      Jazz a Juan Revelations 2005, Grand Prix du Jury, Winner
      Chosun Daily News, Today’s Young Artists
2000  Le Concours de La Defense, Special Prize, Winner
      Concours International de Jazz “Jeunes Talents” Prix Special Ville de Pforzheim
      A Saint Maur des Fosses – Concours de jazz “jeunes talents” Le Premier Prix
1999  Jazz a Montmartre Festival, Semifinal, Winner
1998  

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### Press

**The London Sunday Times**  
**May 2017**

“One surprise after another, from a performer, who can turn anything into an art song.”

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**Stern**  
**May 2017**

“One of the best jazz singers of our time. Her music with ease surpasses all cultural boarders.”

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**Le Figaro**  
**Apr 2017**

“One of the most beautiful voices of today’s jazz.”

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**Gala**  
**June 2017**

“Virtuos, magisch, faszinierend.”

“Virtuoso, magical, fascinating.”

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**WAZ**  
**May 2017**

“A remarkable act of balance – “She Moves On” sounds powerful and relaxed at the same time.”

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**Le Monde**  
**Mar 2011**

“Pourtant, rassurez-vous, il n’y a aucune lubie de mariol dans cette affaire, juste la certitude de tenir là une des plus belles voix du moment.”

“The explicit one is, Youn Sun Nah is one of the noteworthy vocalists who have enthralling voice.”
Les Echos  Renaud Czames, Jul 2012

“Tant pis pour les idées reçues : la plus grande chanteuse de jazz du moment est coréenne. Elle s’appelle Youn Sun Nah.”

“We often imagine that jazz can only come from the US or from Europe, and in that case, mainly from France. Well, you can throw out all those received ideas: the greatest jazz singer of today is Korean. Her name is Youn Sun NAH. Those fortunate enough to have seen her on stage know to what dizzying heights she can lead them”

Le Monde  Yann Plougastel

“Far from the beaten track, an original voice […] Korean singer Youn Sun Nah is an exciting UFO in the jazz universe […] Youn Sun Nah has an astonishing voice with a broad range, capable of playing on several timbres.

These abundant gifts enable her to interpret with great subtlety original compositions which resolutely turn their back on jazz’s hoary old standards. Youn Sun Nah dares, with an astounding sense of improvisation and subtle expertise.”

Der Spiegel  Sep 2010

“Nahs klassisch ausgebildete Stimme schlägt Brücken zwischen Genres und Kulturen. Ein Wunder!”

“Youn Sun Nah’s classically trained voice builds bridges between genres and cultures. A miracle!”

Vogue(DE)  Sep 2010

“Sensationell! Wenn die Koreanerin auf “Same Girl”(ACT/Edel) Jazzballaden singt, swingt jeder Ton in sich. Ganz große Kunst eines wahren Stimmwunders.”

“Sensational! Great art by a true vocal miracle.”

Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung  Sep 2010

“Was sie anfasst, wird zu Jazz”

“Everything meets Youn Sun Nah, turns out to Jazz”

Vogue(DE)  Oct 2013

“Sound-Poet Youn Sun Nah”

“Sound Poet, Youn Sun Nah”

Financial Times  Mar 2010

“Youn Sun Nah’s slightly deferential presentation belied the extraordinary power, range and control of her singing.”

“나윤선의 경이로운 공연은, 마치 그녀의 노래가 어떤 초월적인 힘에 의해 지배받고 있는 것처럼 느껴질 정도이다.”

Jazzwise Magazine  May 2009
“Youn Sun Nah has a wonderfully clear voice, with superb melismatic control and dynamic poise especially in soft passages.”

“나윤선은 놀랍도록 깨끗한 목소리를 가지고 있으며, 특히 부드러운 패시지에서도 뛰어난 멜리스마 컨트롤과 다이내믹한 균형을 가지고 있다.”

**Jazz Magazine/Jazzman**  Philippe Vincent 2010

“One of the most original voice of this century.”

**Libération**  Dominique Queillé  2010

“Youn Sun Nah is without a doubt the most peculiar singer of her generation.”

**Jazz News**  Matthieu Durand  2011

“Youn Sun Nah succeeded to transcend frontiers and captivate a public who thought jazz was unaccessible.”

**Télérama**  Michel Contat  2010

“Youn Sun Nah sings as if she was inventing singing.”

**Citizen Jazz**  Diane Gastellu  2011

“Youn Sun Nah is the best proof that the spirit of jazz still floats on the voice.”

**La Tribune de Genève**  Luca Sabbatini  2012

“The most extraordinary voice of our time, that of Youn Sun Nah.”

**Le Soir**  Jean-Claude Vantroyen  2011

“Youn Sun Nah Korea’s jewel, and the jazz diva who is climbing her way to the top.”

**L’Avenir**  François Descy  2011

“The voice, unique by its tone, its color, its strength.”

**Corriere della Sera**  Raffaele Roselli  2011

“Una voce che rispecchia esattamente la persona: giovane, candida, spontanea, vitale”

“A voice that matches her perfectly: young, plain hearted, spontaneous, alive.”

**Stern**  2010

“Eine stille, unerhörte Meditation. Wundervoll!”

“A quiet, meditation that one hasn’t heard this way before. Wonderful!”

**Göteborgs-Posten**  Ulf Johanson  2010

“There is a concentrated force and a burning focus in Youn Sun Nah’s singing that makes it difficult to resist.”

**Jazzwise**  Stephen Graham  2009

“Youn Sun Nah has a wonderfully clear voice, with superb melismatic control and dynamic poise especially in soft passages.”
“Youn Sun Nah’s slightly deferential presentation belied the extraordinary power, range and control of her singing.”

**Albums**

**She Moves On**
ACT I Warner Music Korea, 2017


Youn Sun Nah - vocals / Jamie Saft - piano, hammond organ, fender rhodes & wurlitzer electric pianos / Dan Rieser - drums / Brad Jones - acoustic bass / Marc Ribot - electric & acoustic guitars

Produced by Jamie Saft
Executive producer - JJ In (Hub Music Inc.)

**Lento**
ACT I Warner Music Korea, 2013


Youn Sun Nah - vocals / Ulf Wakenius - guitars / Lars Danielsson - bass & cello / Vincent Peirani - accordion & cello / Xavier Desandre-Navarre - percussion

Produced by
Youn Sun Nah & Axel Matignon
Executive producer - JJ In

**Same Girl**
ACT I Warner Music Korea, 2010


Youn Sun Nah - vocals, kalimba, music box, kazoo / Ulf Wakenius - guitars / Lars Danielsson - acoustic bass, cello / Xavier Desandre-Navarre - percussion / Special guest on track 11: Roland Brival - narration

Arrangements by Youn Sun Nah
Except tracks 2, 3, 6, 7 by Ulf Wakenius

Produced by Axel Matignon & Lars Danielsson
Executive Producer: JJ In
Voyage
Triangle, 2008 | ACT, Interglobal 2009

01. Dancing With You 02. The Linden 03. Calypso Blues
04. My Bye 05. Jockey Full Of Bourbon 06. Voyage
07. Please, Don’t Be Sad 08. Shenandoah 09. Come, Come
10. Frevo 11. Inner Prayer 12. India Song


Produced by Lars Danielsson
Executive Producer – JJ In

Memory Lane
Seoul Record, 2007 | Interglobal, 2008

01. Eternal Love 02. Paper Tiger 03. Memory Lane
04. Anak 05. Little Fish – Big World 06. Cloud 9 07. City Rhythms
08. Han River 09. Heart Of Glass 10. Cinderella Me


Produced by Niels Lan Doky, Kim Jung Yeol
Executive producer – JJ In

So I Am
In Circum Girum I EMI, 2004

01. Forever 02. Inner Storm 03. Ghosts 04. Circum & Girum
05. The Past 06. Down By Love 07. News From The Gutter


Produced by Olivier Aude, Thierry Pichon

Down By Love
Sony Music, 2003

01. A Medida da Paixão 02. Into Dust 03. Consider Me Gone
04. Old Friends 05. Camille’s Song 06. Down By Love
07. 아름다운 사람 08. Manic Depression 09. Oblivion
10. No Me Llores Más 11. Painted From Memory
Light For The People
In Circum Girum, 2002

01. One Way 02. Song For The People
03. Untitled 04. Besame Mucho
05. Sometimes I’m Happy 06. Lost Dream
07. Your Face 08. Nostalgia 09. Abysses

Reflet
Sony Music, 2001

01. The Moon’s A Harsh Mistress 02. Rainy Day 03. The Joy Grind
04. Ballad For Friends 05. The Night Has A Thousand Eyes
06. Your Face 07. Blueside 08. Hard To Say Goodbye