

*Immediate Release*  
*November 01, 2022*

***“Songs of Love”, a musical documentary that takes you on a journey of untold stories of sacrifice, love, and unbreakable bonds of the first Korean immigrants in Hawaii, performed by world renowned violinist Iggy Jang.***

A musical documentary commemorating 120 years of Korean history in Hawaii, *Songs of Love* premier screening on November 11th 2022 and invited to make its world debut on January 13th, 2023 at the official celebratory event hosted by Korean American Foundation Hawaii at the Hilton Hawaiian Village commemorating the 120th anniversary of the first Korean immigrants to arrive in Hawaii. Over 600 people will be in attendance, including Korean dignitaries and other honored guests from around the world.

In the first episode, world-renowned Hawaii Symphony Concertmaster Ignace “Iggy” Jang accompanied by his wife, pianist Christine Suehisa-Jang begin the musical journey at a historical site on Oahu’s North Shore where many of the first wave of Korean immigrants and other immigrant groups are laid to rest as they arrived for new opportunity at the neighboring Waialua Sugar Plantation in 1903. Three musical stories at each location of cultural relevance including the Pu’uiki Cemetery, Hawaii State Capitol, and aboard the Korean Naval Ship, Marado, represent hope, growth, and peace. With each location transition, Iggy’s violin performances of historically relevant Korean music are interwoven with historical archived photos helping us remember these early pioneers to Hawaii and the life they paved for their descendents. The sacrifices they made, the struggles they faced, all for the love of their children, grandchildren, and the future generation of Korea.

Having moved to Hawaii from South Korea in 2006, an author and former news anchor, Jinyoung L. Won, explores the inspiring history of Koreans in Hawaii. With the success of her debut documentary *Words of Wisdom from the Rainbow State*, Filmmaker Won discovered and wanted to share the inspiring stories of love by the 102 Koreans who sailed to Hawaii on January 13, 1903, who marked the first wave of Korean immigration to the Americas. This small and forlorn group made incredible sacrifices and started the influx of Korean culture and heritage to the Hawaiian Islands. *Songs of Love* captures the strong love that was expressed through sacrifice, selflessness, and hard work, all passed to each forthcoming generation in Hawaii and Korea.



With the COVID-19 pandemic heightening ethnic tensions in the world, the film also highlights the diverse immigrant waves that arrived in Hawaii. Portuguese, Japanese, Spanish, Filipino, and other ethnicities arrived during this time and represents the diverse cultural landscape of Hawaii today. Diverse in their ethnic backgrounds, each group brought their own identity, and yet they gathered together to blend their language, food, and families to create Hawaii plantation culture united by love and community.

## **Credit**

Music Performed By	VIOLINIST IGNACE “IGGY” JANG & PIANIST CHRISTINE SUEHISA-JANG
Directed By	JINYOUNG LEE WON/NOW PRODUCTION/ K-GLOBAL FOUNDATION
Produced By	JINYOUNG LEE WON, MICHELLE GOODIN
Co-Produced By	DOYEON LIM
Written By	JINYOUNG LEE WON, DOYEON LIM
Director of Photography	PAWEL NUCKOWSKI
Music Arranged By	KIM JEE-HWAN
Sound Engineer	PIERRE GRILL
Advisory	DUKHEE LEE MURABAYASHI YEAJEE LEE

***For more info, please e-mail at [nowhawaiiipr@gmail.com](mailto:nowhawaiiipr@gmail.com)***