

EGSCHIGLEN



EGSCHIGLEN ensemble was founded in 1991 by master students of the conservatory of Ulaanbaatar. Still today four founding members are the heart of the group. From the very beginning, the musicians are focusing on the contemporary interpretation of traditional music of Mongolia. The group is searching systematically for the sound dimensions of this repertory with their traditional instruments and the Central Asian vocal style.

The music of a country is formed by its landscape and the way of life of its people. Mongolia, in the heart of Asia, is a vast country, roughly five times the size of Germany. It's a country with endless grasslands in the south into the barren beauty of the Gobi desert. From the snow-covered Altai and Changai mountains clear rivers run through forests and flatlands. A large part of the more than two million Mongolians still live as nomads to this very day, in harmony and rhythm with nature, and together with their "five jewels": horses, camels, cattle, sheep and goats. The music of the Mongolians breathes the freedom and power of the simple way of life close to the nature.

The nomadic herders spend still lonely days in the steppes and mountains, where the wind, the sounds of the animals and their songs are the only entertainment. It is a deep human need to fill immense empty spaces with sounds to trace the topography of the landscape in melodies and the wind, which carries all the sounds and noises of the earth into answers. But not only the visible landscape or nature determines the traditional Mongolian music. For centuries in Mongolia survived despite Lamaism, Buddhism and Soviet influence, an animistic worldview that worships nature magical. Every stone, every mountain, every water, the sky, the clouds, the wind has a deity and is animated by a spirit with which to communicate, to show him respect and to make him low.

The music of EGSCHIGLEN impresses by virtue of its variety and gracefulness. They interpret both traditional songs and the works of contemporary Mongolian composers with their fine-tuned arrangements by using traditional instruments from Mongolia and Central Asian vocal techniques. Their pieces often have chamber-music quality and transparency - and then again the original enchanting power of folk traditions. You can almost hear the sound of the hoofs by the small and tough Mongolian horses - Genghis Khan founded the world's greatest empire of all times on their backs. And then again the music takes us to the clear silence of the Gobi desert, where only the wind sings in the dunes.

On one hand Mongolian sounds seems strange and mysterious to Western ears. Especially the khoomii vocals leave you speechless. Can you believe that one voice can produce such low and high sounds at the same time? (Yes, it is possible!) On the other hand the music sounds familiar, by expressing basic human feelings: love, sorrow and thankfulness. The musicians of EGSCHIGLEN

take you to the fascinating culture of their far-away home, at the same time showing us that beyond all cultural differences there is a common element of human existence."

Their music is of chamber-musical subtlety and transparency, but also characterized by very original and rousing force: one can hear the hoofs of the little tough Mongolian horses on whose backs Chingis Khan founded the largest empire ever. Then again the music leads into the clear silence of the Gobi Desert, where only the wind sings in the dunes. EG SCHIGLEN perform epic songs "tuuli", praise songs "magtaal", short and long songs "urtiin doo" and khoodii songs. The musicians breathe these songs new life - with instrumentation and with solo and choral singing, they create new pieces in these styles and thus inspire the audience from the North Pole to the equator.

EGSCHIGLEN toured in almost all European countries as well as in Turkey and the Caucasus, North Africa, all countries of Central Asia as well as China and Southeast Asia. The ensemble appeared worldwide at renowned classical and world music festivals and played in well-known chamber music halls and venues.

The musicians are balancing between diverse cultures. Over the years EG SCHIGLEN participated in numerous cooperation projects with musicians from various cultural backgrounds and realised experimental and genre-border collaborations: DJ remix projects, studio productions as for the ethnic instrument Library 'Ethno World 4 Professional' produced by Marcel Barsotti, worked for theatre, film and art productions as rock opera "Gengis Khan" with the Compagnia Pneumatica in Bologna/ Italy



(1997), with Jennifer Tee at the Frankfurter Kunstverein for the performance "Jen & The Throat Singers" (2002) to musical encounters such as the "Tien Shan-Switzerland Express" (2002).

EGSCHIGLEN are winner of „creole Bayern 2007 - Award for Worldmusic from Bavaria“.

They are musical ambassadors of their country. In 2014 a special honour ceremony in Ulanbaatar was celebrated for their popular title as “Mother of Mongolian Music”.

EGSCHIGLEN present their live concerts in various formats such as trio, quartet and large ensemble.



“Tumru” Janlav Tumursaihan
moriin khuur (horse head fiddle),
hel khuur (jew's harp), vocals

“Amra” Amartuwshin Baasandorj
khoodii solo vocals, tobshuur (swan-necked lute), khuuchir (snakeskin violin),
moriin khuur, percussion

“Uugan” Uuganbaatar Tsend-Ochir
tobshuur, wind instruments, vocals

The musicians

Janlav Tumursaihan



Tumru (Janlav Tumursaihan) was born in 1972 in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar. From 1984 to 1991 he studied music at the city music school and moriin khuur at State Music College in Ulaanbaatar under the direction of renowned Mongolian musician Batchuluun. He is founding member of the Mongolian traditional string quartet Morin Erdene, he created with fellow students and performed for two years at the theatre in the province Tuv Aimag in Mongolia. He is also a founding member of the group EG SCHIGLEN, in which he plays since 1991 morin khuur, hel khuur, is active as vocalist, musical arranger and composer.

In 1996 he moved with EG SCHIGLEN to Germany, where he is based since and toured the world. He also works regularly as a music teacher for Mongolian music in schools in Nuremberg, Munich and Stuttgart.

From 2010 - 2017 Tumru took part of the ensemble of

Munich City Youth Theater Schauburg/ Germany for the children's theatre production "The gift of the little white horse" and since 2016 of the ensemble of the Fürth City Theater Mumpitz (nearby Nuremberg)/ Germany for the children's theatre production "The unforgotten coat".

As a soloist he participated in numerous intercultural music projects in Europe and Central Asia such as "Tien Shan Swiss Express" and since 2016 in the international ensemble "Matthias Duplessy & 3 Violins of the World".

In 2003 Tumru had been awarded with the Mongolian State Award for Culture and bears the title "Excellent culture performer of Mongolia".

Amartuvshin Baasandorj



Amra (Amartuvshin Baasandorj) is a master of traditional central Asian overtone vocals khoomii and a multi-instrumentalist. He plays the tobshuur (swan-necked lute) and khuuchir (snakeskin violin), the horse-head fiddle moriin khuur and percussion. He grew up in the Chandman Sum region in Western Mongolia, birthplace of overtone singing. He comes from a family of famous khoomii singers and learned from early age by his father and uncle the traditional repertoire and the subtleties of five different khoomii styles.

In 1998 he moved to Germany and joined as permanent member EG SCHIGLEN. Since he is

based in Germany and toured the world with EG SCHIGLEN.

As openminded artist and willing to experiment he participated as khoomii soloist in numerous international music projects and tours such as BuJazzO - National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Germany, Tien Shan Swiss Express; in 2016 in "Anthology of Mongolian Khoomii" with an ensemble of the greatest living master musicians from Mongolia, and since 2014 with the international project "The Musical Voyages Of Marco Polo" led by the Greek composer Kyriakos Kalaitzidis. As a soloist he has performed at numerous festivals, in museums and for radio and TV.

2008 Amra had been awarded with the Mongolian State Award for Culture and bears the title "Excellent culture performer of Mongolia".

Uuganbaatar Tsend-Ochir



Uugan (Uuganbaatar Tsend-Ochir) was born in the Central Gobi province in Mongolia and grew up with under nomads. He is multi-instrumentalist on bass strings, tobshuur, traditional wind instruments and vocalist. He is as well a trained music producer, engineer and founder of the label 'TENGERTON - tones of the sky'.

In 1988 he played the double bass in the Chamber Orchestra of music theatre Dalanzadgad in the South Gobi region. From 1992 to 1996 he was a master student at the Mongolian State University of Culture and Arts in Ulaanbaatar/ Mongolia with emphasis in khuur, general music theory and music education (degree with special distinction). From 1996 to 1998 he worked as a lecturer for double bass. He was member as musician in the traditional Mongolian string quartet at the State University of Culture and Arts and as a double

bass player in the "National Mongolian Song and Dance Academic Ensemble".

In 1998 he moved to Germany and joined as permanent member EG SCHIGLEN. Since he is based in Germany and toured the world with EG SCHIGLEN.

Uugan quickly made a name as a musical virtuoso and musical arranger of intercultural soundscapes and instrument maker. He works regularly as a guest of international ensembles such as Tien Shan Swiss Express, Meïkhâneh under the direction of French musician and musicologist Johanni Curtet and others. Since 2009 is working as a music producer and sound engineer in Mongolia and in the Nuremberg Metropolitan Region. 2011 Uugan had been awarded with the Mongolian State Award for Culture and bears the title "Excellent culture performer of Mongolia".

Discography

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| EGSCHIGLEN | Traditionelle mongolische Lieder, Heaven and Earth, 1996 - Nr. CD HE 1 |
| EGSCHIGLEN | Gobi, Heaven and Earth, 1997 - Nr. CD HE 4
License to: Robi Droli, 1998 - CD FY 8005 |
| EGSCHIGLEN | Egshiglen - Musik aus der Mongolei
ARC Music, 2001 |
| EGSCHIGLEN | Zazal, Heaven and Earth, 2002 - Nr. CD HE 10 |
| EGSCHIGLEN | Gereg, Heaven and Earth, 2007 – Nr. CD HE 17 |

More Infos:

www.egschiglen.de