

The Little Angels' 60th Anniversary Performance -- The Flight of the Angels

Jeong Im-Sun
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On May 28, 2022 (Sat), at 2 PM, and 6 PM at the Universal Art Center, we will have a -live performance by Ensemble Sinawi and Kim Deok-Su, reproducing the live performances from the early years with diverse performances utilizing diverse sets and video backgrounds.

The Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea (Troupe Leader Jeong Im-Sun, Art Director Bae Jeong- Hae) will take the stage for the 60th Anniversary Performance of the Little Angels -- "Flight of the Angels."

The Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea is celebrating its 60th Anniversary with its catchphrase "To the world and the future through Art". They plan to show us a richer and more glamorous performance through their new stage videos, live Korean traditional music, and various repertoires that connect the past, present, and future.

During this commemorative performance, the Little Angels will perform seven representative works, including the Fan Dance, Wedding Day, Moon Festival, and Doll Dance, which have received much love around the world during these

past 60 years, together with four new works: Palace, Hwageom, Peace Road, New Year's Morning, from Director Bae Jeong-Hae, who has served as the troupe's Art Director since 2018. There will also be an hourglass Drum performance directed by Han Ye-Jong, an honorary professor at the Korea National University of Arts and Jango instrumentalist. The small class of 9 to 12-year-olds will perform Folk songs with Gayageum, and the finale will be a chorus. Through these upcoming performances at the Sejong Center for Performing Arts in December of this year, we can look back at the last 60-year history of the Little Angels.



It is particularly noteworthy that the live instrumentals performed during the overseas tours in the early years of 1965 to 1976 will be revived and 7 of the pieces will be played live during this performance. The Korean traditional music group Ensemble Sinawi who is recognized at home and abroad will perform the instrumentals. They have released many albums, actively held performances, and were awarded the Grand prize in the Korean Instruments piece of the Korean Arts Competition in 2020.

The live instrumentals of Ensemble Sinawi will add a richer and more colorful musical element to the Little Angels' performance, making it a more immersing performance than the previously recorded music.

We are eager to see the direction of Director Kim Deok-Su, who is expected to recreate the original musical essence and creativity found in the early years of the Little Angels' performances while also taking on the role of Jango performer and musical director.



Professor Kim Deok-Su, who is directing the performance has said, "Some of the musicians of Ensemble Sinawi are the children of the instrumental performers who were with us in the overseas tours during the early years of the Little Angels. It is a historic and monumental project to be able to perform together with them." With this ensemble performance of expert musicians who have become masters through the centuries and newer musicians who are becoming future masters, we anticipate a historic musical achievement

during this performance with the Little Angels.

Even with the stage production, the performance is moving forward from the tradition of using delicate and elaborate stage curtains to depict a large landscape to introduce video backgrounds in line with today's trends and there will also be new changes to the stage mechanisms.

It is anticipated that the audience can comprehensively experience tradition, change, and the variety of concise and solid classical traditions, as well as the freedom of modern dance represented by condensation, breathing, and humor. The dynamic percussion ensemble will also exhibit the unique excitement and rhythm of traditional Korean music.

The Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea was founded on May 5, 1962, and is composed of elementary and middle school members. The Little Angels have visited more than 60 nations around the world sharing the excellence and beauty of Korean traditional culture and the arts. In recognition of their contribution to enhancing the global status of Korean Culture, the Little Angels have received Presidential Commendations four times. They have been called "The original Hallyu" and "Angels of Peace" who bring peace and harmony through culture and the arts after their Pyongyang performance in 1998 and their tour to the 22 UN nations that participated in the Korean War in commemoration of the Korean War 60th Anniversary. In addition, the Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea is an educational institution specializing in the arts for elementary and middle school students. They are striving to cultivate global artistic talents with both good character and skills.

