

Interview of Ko Yu Jin, a New Special Envoy at the Cheonshim Cultural Center

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Ko Yu Jin with fellow UPA cadets

Transforming the world through Cheonshim culture

Culture and the arts have become the defining language of our time. Through this language, the Cheonshim Cultural Center participates in the providence of Heavenly Parent by discovering and nurturing cultural leaders who will help the culture of Cheon Il Guk flourish.

We met with Special Envoy Ko Yu Jin of the Department of Cultural Education, who has dreamed since high school of becoming a leader advancing the providence through culture and the arts.

Three months into her new role, she shares her candid reflections on beginning a public mission and the vision the Cheonshim Cultural Center hopes to realize. - Editor's Note

Question: What were your first thoughts and impressions when you were appointed as a Special Envoy to the Cheonshim Cultural Center?

When I first heard about my appointment, I was nervous and wondered whether I would really be able to do the job well. At the same time, though, I was also excited. In fact, even back when it was still called the Hyojeong Cultural center - when I was in high school - I dreamed of working here.

At the time, I didn't really know what kind of work the Center did, but just knowing that I could take part in Heavenly Parent's providence through culture and the arts was enough to make my heart race. I still remember how my fellow cadets reacted when they heard the news. They immediately said, "Yu Jin, that's the perfect place for you!" and were almost as happy about my appointment as I was.

Taking the First Steps Through Learning

Question: What are your current responsibilities at the Cheonshim Cultural Center, and what does a typical day look like for you?

I work in the Department of Cultural Education at the Cheonshim Cultural Center. While many people think of the Center primarily as a place that organizes performances and events, one of our key missions is also to discover and cultivate talented individuals who will help the culture of Cheon Il Guk flourish.

If I were to sum up our department's role in a single sentence, I'd say that we provide educational programs to cultivate people's cultural talents with the aim of expanding the ways truth and the Word can be proclaimed within the cultural sphere. Within that work, I help develop programs that explore questions such as, "Why do we need a cultural perspective?" and "What does it mean to have one?" To be honest, I'm still learning myself, so every day brings something new.

My days are quite full. After arriving at work each morning, I often recharge with a cup of soup.

Somehow that's become one of my little daily routines. I think the employee benefits here are pretty good! In the mornings, I usually finish any work I didn't get to the day before.

Since I've only been here for about three months, I don't have an overwhelming workload yet. After finishing my assigned tasks, I spend time reading or studying practical aspects of my work. I think this is still very much a season of learning for me.



Special Envoy Ko Yu Jin with Moon Shin-chul and fellow members of the Cheonmyeong Praise Worship team, where she served for about a year as a UPA cadet

Question: Since this is your first experience in professional life, you've likely encountered real-world challenges and limitations. When you've faced those difficulties, what experiences from your time as a UPA cadet have helped you overcome them?

I have a strong desire to make a meaningful contribution to the providence, but as someone just starting out, I often find it frustrating that my practical skills haven't yet caught up with my aspirations.

My senior colleagues often encourage me by saying, "As a new employee, you don't have to be exceptional. Just quietly and faithfully do your part." I'm truly grateful for their advice. At the same time, though, I can't help wishing I had prepared a little more before graduating.

Even so, when I look back, the attitude I developed during my cadet years - acknowledging

my shortcomings while continually striving to grow - has become the strongest foundation supporting me through the very real challenges I face today.

Where Culture Advances the Providence

Question: You probably see the world differently now than you did as a UPA cadet. Has this work given you any new perspectives?

During my time as a UPA cadet, I had the opportunity to serve for about a year as a member of the Cheonmyeong Praise Worship team. We moved beyond the traditional format of worship and planned praise-centered services. Through that experience, I saw many young people finding comfort and experiencing a heartfelt revival. At the time, I simply thought what we needed were "players" who combined strong faith with artistic ability.

But after becoming a public leader and seeing the work of the Cheonshim Cultural Center up close, I've come to understand more clearly why True Parents have emphasized the importance of culture and the arts.

The world is already communicating with people - and shaping the way they think - through the language of culture. The more I experience this, the more I realize that if we want to communicate the true values we have to offer, we need to express them through a cultural perspective. That is why I have come to feel so strongly that we need to cultivate cultural talent, especially for the education of the next generation.

Question: You have had the opportunity to learn about many of the Cheonshim Cultural Center's programs. Is there one in particular that has left a lasting impression on you?

I genuinely appreciate every program the Cheonshim Cultural Center is carrying out. But if I had to choose one that especially stands out, I'd start with the Next Generation Song Camp. The Song Camp brings together people with both musical talent and a strong foundation of faith to write and produce

original songs.

If I had even a little musical talent myself, I think I would have wanted to join! (Laughs.) I hope this camp will discover and nurture many gifted people in our community and help create an environment where we can continue writing and producing our own music.

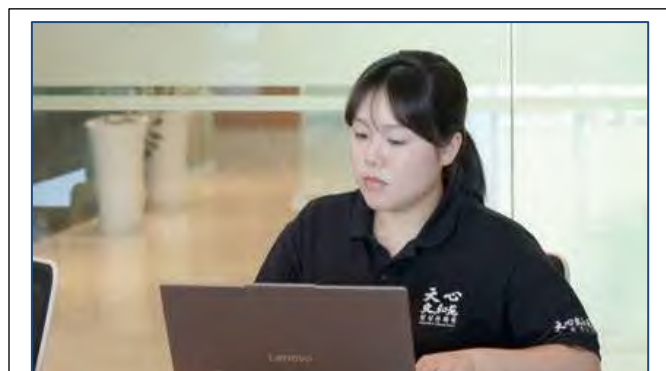
The second is the Cheon Il Guk Songs of Praise Production Project. Earlier I mentioned my experience with the Cheonmyeong Praise Worship team. That experience was very meaningful, but it also left me with one lingering regret. At the time, most of the songs we sang were adapted from existing Christian praise songs.

Ever since then, I've hoped we would have more songs of our own - songs that truly express our heart. That's why I was so happy when I learned about the Cheon Il Guk Songs of Praise Production Project. It felt like an answer to something I had hoped for over a long time.

Lastly, I'd mention the Cheonshim Cultural Talent Development Program, which I'm directly involved with. Even as a cadet, I enjoyed creating activities that complemented a sermon more than writing the sermon itself. Maybe that's why this work feels like such a natural fit for me.

I really enjoy thinking about how we can help people develop a cultural perspective. Of course, coordinating with others and continually revising project proposals is not always easy, but I see that as part of a planner's calling. (Laughs) I hope culture and the arts will come to play a much greater role within our community.

That is why I devote myself to this work - with the hope that, through culture and the arts, people of different generations can connect, better understand one another, and come to embrace the values of the True Parents together.



Special Envoy Ko Yu Jin, a new staff member in the Department of Cultural Education at the Cheonshim Cultural Center

Question: The projects you've just introduced - the Song Camp, the Cheon Il Guk Songs of Praise Project, and the cultural education system - are all very impressive. What kind of impact do you think they will have on our community in the years ahead?

I believe all of these programs are part of one continuous flow: creating works that make True Parents' heart our own, sharing them with our entire community, and passing them on to the next generation.

The Cheonshim Cultural Center's vision - "A heavenly kingdom on earth where we attend

Heavenly Parent, and a Cheon Il Guk that blossoms through Cheonshim Culture" - is fully reflected in these programs.

What I look forward to most from the Song Camp and the Cheon Il Guk Songs of Praise Production Project is that our community will increasingly find its own voice.

True Mother has said that "everyone should be able to share in the joy that wells up from the heart." Guided by those words, I believe a culture in which we worship and find comfort through songs that are truly our own will spread throughout our local communities.

I also see the Cheonshim Cultural Talent Development Initiative as the foundation that will make all of this sustainable. The change this initiative seeks to bring about is the creation of a strong foundation where talented individuals, grounded in a proper understanding of Cheonshim Culture, can continue producing content that introduces more people to Holy Mother Han, True Mother.

Beyond that, as the younger generations who will fulfill True Mother's providential vision while moving forward with the Inheritors of Heaven's Love and Blessing, I believe the content created by the Cheonshim Cultural Center will create a powerful synergy. It will help bring about heartfelt revival in our communities and become a driving force for firmly establishing Cheonshim Culture in our daily lives.

Together: Moving Beyond Learning to Practice

Question: As you look ahead, what is one personal commitment that will guide your continued growth?

Earlier I mentioned that we need more cultural talent. In a way, I think I'm one of the people who still has

a lot of growing to do. (Laughs.) As I develop educational content, I'm reminded every day that I'm still learning and growing myself. That's why my commitment is clear.

I want to devote myself wholeheartedly to nurturing the cultural talent our communities need so they can help support True Mother's providence. I will do my utmost to help the Cheonshim Cultural Center become a place where our community moves beyond simply consuming culture to shaping it with a voice that is uniquely our own. Even if the road ahead is long and my steps are sometimes slow, I want to enjoy the journey - not out of a sense of obligation, but with a heart of hyojeong toward True Parents.



A Department of Cultural Education meeting at the Cheonshim Cultural Center to discuss cultural talent development programs

Question: What message would you like to share with the UPA cadets who are currently training and growing through the program?

The first thing I would like to say to those coming after me is this: "Cherish the classmates walking this path beside you." When you eventually step out into the world, you may feel discouraged or overwhelmed by the realization of how few of us there really are. In those moments, the precious classmates who have remained on this path with the same heart will become your greatest source of comfort and strength. These days, I find myself realizing more than ever that no matter how advanced AI becomes, what matters most is still people - and the companions who walk this journey with us.

One more thing: even in the midst of your busy training, I hope you will make time to get to know yourself. Keep exploring what you love and what you do well, and keep jotting down ideas as you ask yourself, "How can I use the abilities that I have to share True Parents' teachings in a more compelling way?" Those seemingly small notes, together with a deeper understanding of yourself, will one day become a much greater source of strength than you can imagine.

Toward a Life That Feels Like a Gift

Question: Through this interview, we've had the opportunity to look back on your journey since being commissioned as a Special Envoy. What words of encouragement or appreciation would you like to offer yourself after all you've poured into that journey? And finally, what message of gratitude would you like to share with True Parents, who made all of this possible?

So much has happened over the past six years. Looking back, I simply want to say to myself, "Thank you for making it this far." (Laughs.)

And to my beloved True Parents: thank You, from the depths of my heart, for never giving up on me - despite all my rough edges and shortcomings - and for calling me into this public mission. There were times when I grumbled, wondering, "How great a gift must You be preparing for me to put me through all of this?" But now I see that every step of the journey has been the loving devotion that Heavenly Parent and True Parents poured into raising me.

There was a time when my life felt like nothing more than following a predetermined path. I stumbled along the way before it became the precious journey I now walk together with True Parents. Today, I can honestly say that I truly love this journey.

In this new era opened by True Mother, I believe the Cheonshim Cultural Center carries the mission of bringing revival to our communities through Cheonshim Culture - together with the Inheritors of Heaven's Love and Blessing and future generations. By faithfully fulfilling the calling entrusted to me to nurture cultural talent, I will continue growing into someone whose life becomes a gift to True Parents.

Thank You. I truly love you.