

Little Angels 60th Anniversary Performance at the Sejong Center for the Arts in central Seoul

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Celebrating their 60th year, the Little Angels of Korea offered a special Anniversary performance at the Sejong Center for the Arts in central Seoul on December 1 and 2. The company of "Singing and Dancing Angels of Peace," with members from ages 8 to 15, was founded in 1962 to share Korea's beautiful culture around the world. Their first overseas tour began in September 1965 with a special performance for former US President Eisenhower. Since then, they have toured to more than 60 countries introducing Korean tradition, culture and arts, and playing the role of civilian ambassadors, as they have met with more than 50 heads of state during their tours.

The 60th anniversary performance was filled with a repertoire connecting the past, present and future with the theme "To the Art, to the World, to the Future," and they invited noted Korean dance choreographer Bae Jung-hye and noted Korean musician Kim Deok-soo, the creator of "Samulnori," who had worked with the company in that past, to direct nine of the works in the anniversary performance.

(Springtime Fan Dance, Wedding Day Gang Gang Suwolae Singing with Kayagum Penitent Monk (Drum Dance) Doll Dance Mask Dance Farm Festival) These were followed by four works recently choreographed by Bae Jeong-hye, while she has served as the company's artistic director since 2018 (Palace Hwageom (a patriotic warriors dance) Peace Road New Year's Day) and a special large-scale ensemble "Hourglass Drum Wave" was specially staged for the occasion by Kim Deok-soo who has been serving as the company's Staging Director since 2021. The finale was a Choral performance by the 130 members of all four teams of the Little Angels While inheriting the traditional Korean dance and musical style that was performed by the company in its early days, the performance was enriched with new music tracks arranged for their performance this past May with a live Korean traditional orchestra, yielding a richer combination of live music and dance. For this performance, Professor Kim Deok-soo took charge of the Korean gugak ensemble Shinawi and created a stunning colorful performance.

New digital backgrounds were also specially created for the performance, bringing the look of the performance to a whole new level as well. In addition to traditional Korean images, the background included images of historic performances by the Little Angels around the world, giving the audience the chance to appreciate the past, present and future of the company all at once.

Also, to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Little Angels, on December 2, in the VIP room of the Sejong Center, the founding Artistic Director, Shin Soon-shim was presented with the first "Great Little Angels Teacher Award", and Julia Moon, who is currently the chairman of the board for the Hyojeong Korean Cultural Foundation and the Universal Ballet, was awarded the first "Proud Little Angels Alumnus" award.



The Little Angels' current director, Jeong Im-soon said, "I delighted that we have safely completed the journey of this special year commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Little Angels. It has been a busy year, starting with an academic symposium on dance and the arts, an anniversary performance at our home theater, the Universal Arts Center in May, and this performance as the finale of the year. As we go forward, we hope that we will resonate with many people's hearts as we continue to strive to do our best to shine as cultural arts ambassadors proudly representing Korea."