

# The Banquet

National Dance Company  
of Korea



# The Banquet

## A Banquet of traditional dance portrayed as a magnificent landscape

Re-creation of tradition: Fashion designer Jung Ku-ho directs this new dance performance with Korean traditional dance maestros Cho Heung-dong, Kim Young-suk, and Yang Sung-ok.

The Banquet presents Korean dance from past to present including traditional court dance, movements from religious rituals, and folk dance. The repertory includes representative royal court dances, Buddhist ritual Seungmu(Buddhist dance) and Janggochum(double-headed drum dance), one of the leading folk dances of Korea. An all-new Taepyeongmu(dance for peace) with 50 dancers will be a sight to remember.

National Dance Company of Korea, which creates new work from tradition, and Jung Ku-ho, who regards tradition is a treasure chest for creation, meet for the third time to build a beautiful new aesthetic that becomes greater during the performance.

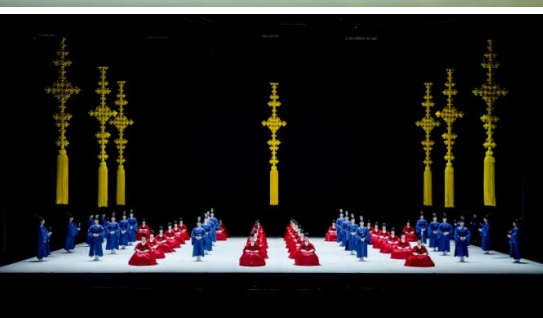
The Banquet is an elegant performance full of virtue and class. The stage design takes from traditional art by scholars and turns it into a modern aesthetic. The National Dance Company of Korea strives to present a fresh flavor to audiences accustomed to a fast changing pace of life.

### CREDITS

**Choreography** Cho Heung-dong

**Mise-en-scène** Jung Ku-ho

**Co-choreography** Kim Young-suk, Yang Sung-ok



*A compilation of Korean dances with a long history of five thousand years presented on one stage.*

*- KBS*

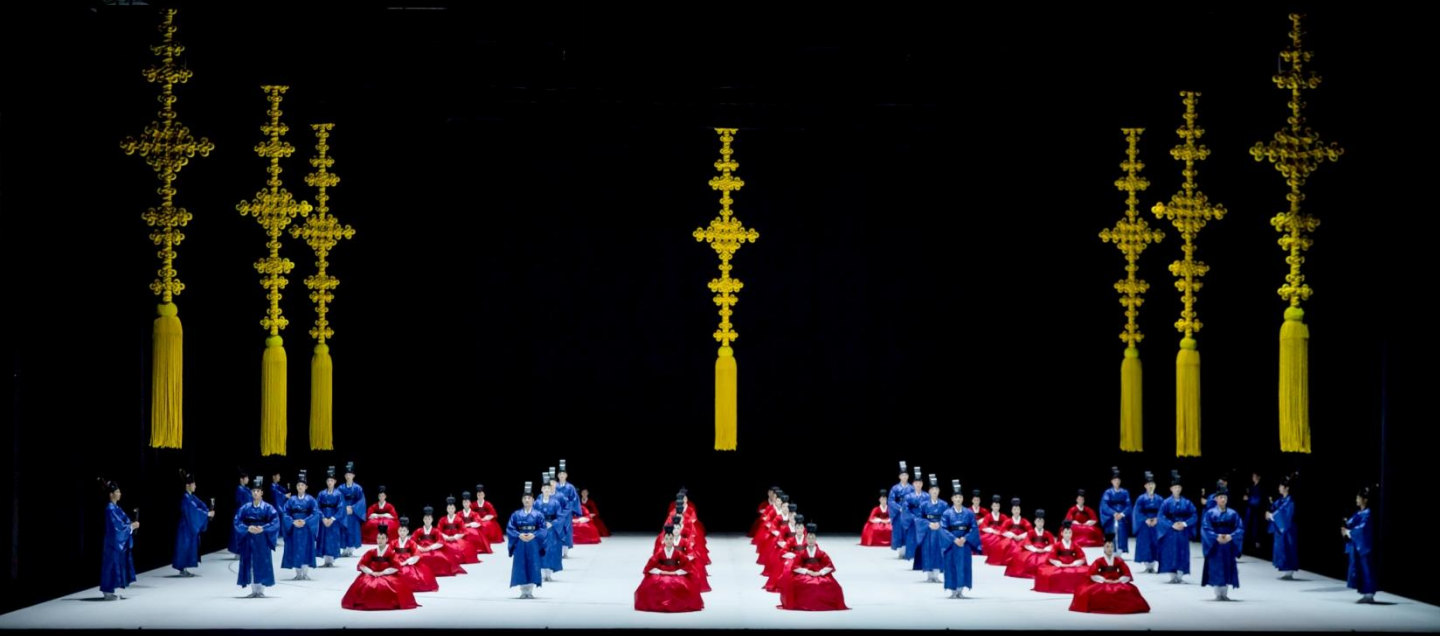
*This piece is like a fresh and light ink-and-wash painting drawn with a pen.*

*Modern, but still keeping the traditional beauty.*

*- Newsis*

*A creative and innovative stage breaking our stereotypes.*

*- Dance critic Kim Kyung-ae*



# CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE

by Cho Heung-dong



The Banquet is a dance production that represents the essence of Korean dance, featuring beautiful Korean melodies and dance moves. This piece is characterized by the elegant dance on a simple and minimal stage in harmony with its music, stage setting, costumes and images. The Banquet consists of the items of Korean dance in the form of an omnibus, portraying the four seasons of the year.

Spring announces the start of the banquet with royal court dance such as Ilmu and Gainjeonmokdan, while summer is comprised of religious dance, including Barachum and Salpuri, based on religious rituals.

In autumn, a harvest festival is held along with Sogochum, Ogomu and Jangguchum, derived from Nongak, which is traditional Korean music performed by farmers.

Finally, the performance ends with Taepyeongmu, danced by the king and the people altogether, wishing for peace and prosperity of the country. Korean dance is a product of self-discipline and philosophy. It is danced from the heart. Therefore, dance with a soul, radiating every ounce of spirit, is the essential element of Korean dance. The Banquet is not an unidentified dance performance, but a piece that has contributed to the globalization of our tradition, folk art as well as traditional dance movements and tunes. Apart from any additional settings or effects, the inner world from our heart and body is expressed with dance moves, including dance steps and hand movements in this piece.

Dance should be neither excessive nor deficient. The inner side from the bottom of the heart needs to be expressed with dignified movements. The dancers of the National Dance Company of Korea have come back with a higher level of performance after a long period of time of preparation, premieres and reruns. The 'banquet' of spring, summer, autumn and winter will be presented on stage, while the dancers embody the excitement and energy of Korean dance with their every single dance movement. We hope the dance performed on this stage will remind audiences of the origin of Korean dance and resonate with them.

# Program Note



*Ritual*



*Royal Banquet*



*Military Rite*



*Bara Dance*



*Seungmu*



*Salpuri Dance*



*Small Gong Dance*



*Confucian Scholar Dance*



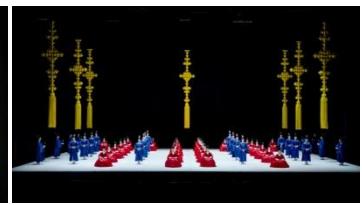
*Janggu Dance*



*Sogo Dance*



*Five-Drum Dance*



*New Taepyeongmu*

The Scene 1 of Act 1, representing the season of spring, begins with Ilmu that announces the start of the ritual, danced by the dancers standing in a rows. The stage is as white as snow. It seems to be the end of the winter. Then Gainjeonmokdan danced by female court dancers, moving around the vase full of flowers, and Jeongdaeupjimu, a dance performed in honor of the exploits of past kings continue. In Act 2, dancers present religious ritual dance, including Buddhist ritual dance, Barachum (Buddhist cymbals dance), Salpuri and Jinsoechum (dance with small gong). From Act 3, representing autumn, the season of harvest, the atmosphere becomes more exhilarating with Seonbichum (dance of scholars) that combines Hallyangmu and Hakchum (crane dance), followed by Jangguchum by female dancers and Sogochum by male dancers. The climax of Act 3 is Ogomu (five drum dance) presented in Scene 4. 24 female dancers in two rows of 12, surrounded by five drums respectively, perform Ogomu in perfect order. The turntable stage is the apex. The 24 same, but different Ogomu danced by 24 dancers provide a panoramic spectacle on a spinning turntable stage. Act 4 rounds off the excitement of the banquet and wishes for peace and prosperity. Sintaepyeongmu by some 50 dancers brings a breath of spring back.

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# NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY OF KOREA

Since its foundation in 1962, the National Dance Company of Korea, which is a resident Company of the National Theater of Korea, has continued to engage in art activities under the motto of creation based on tradition.

It has been led by the best artists including its first director Song Beom, Cho Heung-dong, Choi Hyeon, Kook Soo-ho, Kim Hyun-ja, Bae Jung-hye and Yun Sung-joo, while it is currently run by Kim Sang-duk. While inheriting traditional / folk dances under the guidance of the greatest artists of the day, the NDCK has been working on creating and developing modern renditions of Korean dance to attract and inspire contemporary audiences.

NDCK is now at the forefront of Korean creative dance with Korean dance arts of different aesthetics based on tradition, including a main repertoire *Korea Fantasy*, which is a combination of traditional dances, a representative dance theatre *Chum, Chunhyang*, and a stylish Korean dance *Scent of Ink*. Consisting of more than 50 top dancers in the nation who offer the audience the opportunity of pleasant aesthetic experiences with their dynamic and sophisticated dances, the NDCK constantly strives to develop a wide range of repertoires and new works that will be the tradition of the future.