

# Sword Dance Program

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## Chapter 1. The Warrior's Sword Dance

### *Sword of Masculinity — Noble Spirit*

Inspired by the Hwarang warriors of the Silla Dynasty, this chapter embodies the disciplined spirit and martial strength of those who trained their bodies and minds to defend the nation. Through powerful movement and the striking image of the sword, the stage unfolds with the courage and determination of the warrior.

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### **Seonmudo**

Seonmudo is a traditional Buddhist practice that seeks the perfect alignment of breath, body, and spirit. Guided by the rhythmic echoes of the drum, each deliberate movement unfolds with a powerful, grounded presence.

*Dancer* **Yeonji Hong**

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### **Seoljanggo**

A dynamic janggu performance set to the fast and vibrant Hwimori rhythm, energizing the stage with powerful beats and expressive movement. The lively percussion heightens the intensity of the sword dance and showcases the spirit of Korean traditional music.

*Musicians* **Hyun Sun Park, Jang Yunteag**

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### **Jangeommu (Long Sword Dance)**

Inspired by the swordsmanship of the Silla Hwarang warriors, this dance features the brilliant and precise movements of twin blades. With sharp arcs and disciplined gestures, the choreography embodies the courage, strength, and noble spirit of the warriors who devoted themselves to protecting their nation.

*Dancer* **Yeonji Hong**

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## **Nanta (Drum Dance)**

Resounding rhythms of the drum fill the stage with power and intensity. The dynamic beats evoke the tension of battle and the exhilaration of victory, creating a vibrant atmosphere that celebrates the energy and spirit of Korean traditional performance.

*Performers* **Y:eon Dance Company** (Yuri Ryuiti Sato, Julie Bourgoin)

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## **Chapter 2. The Court Artist's Sword Dance**

### *Sword of the Artist — Royal Elegance and Artistry*

In this chapter, the sharp blade is transformed into art. The sword becomes an instrument of beauty and expression, unfolding into a splendid celebration of dance that flourished both in royal courts and among the people.

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### **Pyongyang Geommu**

Originating among the people and later refined within royal court banquets, Pyongyang Geommu combines the elegant dignity of court tradition with the bold and dynamic techniques preserved by the artists of Pyongyang. Together, they reveal the artistic essence of Korean sword dance.

*Dancer* **Yeonji Hong**

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### **Jeok Nyeom (Haegeum)**

“Jeok Nyeom” (적념), meaning “Tranquil Thought,” is one of the most celebrated solo works for the haegeum, the piece blends contemporary and traditional Korean musical styles. Its meditative and solemn melodies unfold with grace and depth. The original composition consists of five movements, each following a different jangdan (traditional rhythmic cycle), though today’s performance will feature two selected movements.

*Haegeum* **Sosun Suh**

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### **The Sword of Nongae**

Inspired by the legendary courtesan Nongae, this dance embodies both artistic grace and resolute courage, expressing the spirit of sacrifice and dignity through the refined movements of the sword. *Dancer* **Yeonji Hong**

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## **Chapter 3. The Woman's Sword Dance**

### *Sword of the Woman — Devotion and Resilience*

The final chapter reveals the quiet yet unwavering strength embodied in the traditional silver knife, Eunjangdo. Through song and dance, it tells the story of a woman's devotion, dignity, and resilience.

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### **Sangsahwa & Flowers Bloom and Wither**

A sorrowful melody, flowing beneath the cold moonlight of imprisonment, captures the tragic emotions of a woman facing her fate.

*Vocalist* **Hyemin Ji**

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### **Eunjangdo**

Inspired by the famous pansori Chunhyangga, this choreography draws from the story of Chunhyang, who remained faithful to her vow despite oppression and imprisonment, embodying unwavering devotion and dignity.

*Dancer* **Yeonji Hong**

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## **Artist Biographies**

### **Yeonji Hong**

Yeonji Hong is an award winning Korean dance artist who has received her PhD in dance from the Sejong University in Seoul, South Korea. She has performed across South Korea as part of the National Dance Company of Korea, and has performed internationally as part of numerous culture exchange initiatives in Japan, China and Oman to name a few. She currently performs across Ontario and teaches dance and drumming in Ottawa at the Korean Cultural Centre. In 2025, she was formally recognized as a transmitter of Pyongyang Geommu (Sword Dance of Pyongyang), designated as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of South Pyongan Province. She combines her deep knowledge of traditional dance with a modern perspective to express the emotions and essence of beauty of Korean art and culture.

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### **Hyun Sun Park**

Hyun Sun Park is an accomplished musician specializing in Korean Samulnori (traditional Korean percussion music) and Gayageum (Korean string instrument). She is the Music Instructor at Montreal Korean Language and Culture Centre and is the Director of Son D'Ottawa. She is working as a traditional Korean music instructor at a Korean language school and serving as a committee member of the Korean Heritage Committee performance team.

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### **Sosun Suh**

Sosun Suh is a professional Haegeum (Korean fiddle) performer in South Korea and in Canada. She has studied widely both in Korea and Canada, receiving a BA in Music and She has Masters in Education in South Korea and Canada. performed for the Gangwon Provincial Korean Music Orchestra. Currently she is a musical director of the Canadian Military Wives Choirs Ottawa and the Ottawa Children's Choir Dolce.

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### **Hyemin Ji**

Hyemin Ji is a vocalist and educator based in Ottawa. Originally from Korea, she bridges Korean and Western musical cultures through performance and teaching. With a solo album and a title track simultaneously released in Korea and Japan, she leads an independent vocal academy, inspiring students to find their own voice.

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## Credits

Director & Choreographer	Yeonji Hong
Production Manager	Chloe Kim, Jeonghee Kim
Media Designer	Seulgi Yim
Trailer Producer	Hyunseong Park
Photographer	Jay Park
Emcee	Mala Cky
Technical Director	Garret Brink
Box Office	Arts Court
Marketing & Promotion	Korean Cultural Centre Canada

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