



Bereishit Dance Company

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025 | 7:30PM

JACKSON HALL | UC DAVIS

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We should take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people.

Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.

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A Trip Around the World

In the Mondavi Center's backstage hallway, just outside the Williams Green Room, there is a map of the world. It's filled with pins, placed there to recognize and honor the home countries of our visiting artists. Every continent except Antarctica has been tagged. Only a few countries and territories do not have a pin.



It's a treat to watch visiting artists and other guests exploring the map. I love to see their excitement when a new pin is placed, or when they realize others from their home country have graced our stages. The map, which started as a simple idea (almost a joke, really), now tells the story of how the arts are a tie that binds all humanity.

As I look ahead at our season, I'm excited and proud of the global reach of our lineup and the promise of some new pins in the map. From January through May, we will present artists from the United States, Brazil, South Korea, England, Guinea, India, Ireland, Japan, France, Australia, and Ukraine.

Some of our most interesting international visitors will focus on the fascinating intersection between western classical arts traditions and the artist's own culture. Heloísa Fernandes will focus on jazz and its Brazilian heritage. Bereishit Dance Company will present modern dance informed by traditional Korean Culture. And the gravity-defying acrobats of Cirque Kalabanté will explore the rhythms of Guinean daily life (just to name a few).

I encourage you to explore this season's many international offerings, and to consider trying something entirely new to you. You'll be glad you did.



The world awaits,
Jeremy Ganter
Executive Director

Bereishit Dance Company

BALANCE & IMBALANCE (2010)

Balance & Imbalance illustrates the constantly turning wheel of opposition and harmony at the heart of all relationships, through an ongoing exchange of sound and movement—two of the most prevalent forms of expression.

Choreographer Soon-ho Park
Music Traditional Korean percussion and Pansori Sugungga
Dancers Da-som Lee, Ji-hun Na, Min-woo Jeong, Sang-hyun Park, Eun-young Jang
Musicians Jeong-uk Kim, Maeng-ka Ko
Vocalist Eun-kyung Kim

---INTERMISSION---

JUDO (2014)

Judo uses dance and rhythm to examine how sports can serve as a means to channel humanity's violent impulses, while mirroring the social dynamics of competition, cooperation, conflict, and harmony.

Choreographer Soon-ho Park
Music Composition by Jeong-hun Pi, An-na Kang
Dancers Da-som Lee, Ji-hun Na, Min-woo Jeong, Sang-hyun Park, Kang-han Jung, Eun-young Jang, Pyung-on Kim

Technical Director & Tour Manager Seon-woo Kim
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PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

For booking information, contact Sophie Myrtil-McCourty President, Lotus Arts Management.
Phone: 347.721.8724, Email: sophie@lotusartsmgmt.com, Website: www.lotusartsmgmt.com.

About the Company

Founded in 2011 by choreographer Soon-ho Park, Bereishit is a Seoul-based dance company that approaches Korean traditional culture from a contemporary view—keeping the fundamental value of things, as opposed to simply borrowing or transforming them. The work also explores the issues of identity and transformation and delves into multimedia, street dance, community dance work and real time interactive demonstration. It displays an amazing sensitivity towards space and rhythms and its performances are always delivered with kinesthetic clarity and power. Bereishit has toured internationally including to a sold-out house at the Arts Center of NYU Abu Dhabi, and in the US at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Pittsburgh Dance Council, ArtPower at UC San Diego, Dance Salad Festival, Strathmore, Celebrity Series of Boston, NYU Skirball, The Ringling, and FUNDarte. The company has also set a work on the dance students of Rutgers University and George Mason University.



Soon-ho Park

*Bereishit Dance Company
Founder and Choreographer*

Soon-ho Park, an active choreographer and dance educator, received a BFA from Hansung University in Seoul, Korea and studied at the Arnhem European Dance

Development Center in the Netherlands. He completed a choreography program at Europe Dance Development Center in Netherlands and received PhD in dance from Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, Korea.

Park's choreography is acclaimed for its creation of something new, something which transcends the East and the West, dance and martial arts, and traditional and contemporary movement. Since founding Bereishit Dance Company in 2011, he has been continuously researching while collaborating with artists in different genres internationally. His mission is to create original choreographies challenging new interpretations of traditional art forms.

About the Artists

Dancers

Da-som Lee is a dancer and choreographer who studied modern dance at SNDO in the Netherlands. Lee has showcased talent at various venues, including the Ringling in Florida, the Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in New York, and the Dade County Auditorium in Miami (2023). Additionally, performances include the Seoul Cultural Foundation (2022), the 40th International Modern Dance Festival MODAFE (2022), and serving as a featured choreographer at the 9th Incheon International Contemporary Dance Festival (2021).

Ji-hun Na is a dancer and choreographer with a degree in modern dance at Kookmin University. Na has graced the stages of the Ringling in Florida, the Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in New York, and the Dade County Auditorium in Miami (2023). Performances also include venues like the Culture and Arts Center (2022), the Du.a.Co Dance Company's *Existential Empty* (2020), and winning the Silver Award for Senior Contemporary Dance at the 2019 Seoul International Dance Competition.

Sang-hyun Park studied modern dance at Chung-Ang University and has performed at notable events such as the Korean Dance Awards Festival (2023), the Seoul Cultural Foundation (2022), the International Contemporary Dance Festival MODAFE, and the Busan International Dance Festival (2021). Performances also include the Daegu Suseong Artpia Theater, sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association (2020).

Pyung-on Kim majored in modern dance at Seoul National University of the Arts and participated in the BOHUN Dance Festival Competition (2024), the Korea Contemporary Dance Association Live Dance Festival (2023), and the Culture and Arts Center's *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association (2022). Kim also performed at the Daegu Suseong Artpia Theater (2020) and won the grand prize in the 11th National Youth Unification Dance Performance Contest, as well as 2nd place in the Hip Hop International Korea Dance Competition (2024).

Kang-han Jung studied modern dance at Seoul National University of Arts and performed at the BOHUN Dance Festival Competition and the U-dance festival (2024). Jung also showcased talent at the Korea Contemporary Dance Association Live Dance Festival (2023), the Culture and Arts Center's *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (2022), and the 40th International Modern Dance Festival MODAFE as well as the 10th Cheongju International Dance Festival (2021).

Min-woo Jeong majored in modern dance at Seoul National University of the Arts and earned the Grand Prize in Contemporary Dance at the 2nd Korea Dance Grand Prix in 2023. Jeong has performed at the Culture and Arts Center's *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (2022), the 40th International Modern Dance Festival MODAFE, and the 10th Cheongju International Dance Festival (2021).

Eun-young Jang studied modern dance at Hanyang University. In 2023, Jang secured the Gold Award at the 60th National New Dance Competition, the Silver Award at the KOREA International Contemporary Dance Competition, and received additional accolades from the 28th Boksagol Major Dance Competition, 28th Contemporary Dance Association Dance Competition, and the 18th Cheongju National Dance Competition. Performances include the Culture and Arts Center's *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* (2022) and the 40th International Modern Dance Festival MODAFE.

Musicians

Jeong-uk Kim (musician) studied Traditional Performing Arts at the Korea National University of Arts and has performed at the Ringling in Florida, the Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in New York, and the Dade County Auditorium in Miami (2023). Performances also include the East Asian Cultural City Korea-China-Japan Exchange Festival, the 63rd Korean Folk Art Festival, and the *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association (2022). Participation includes the Istanbul Consulate General in Turkey's Hanbok Fashion Show (2021) and the 40th International Modern Dance Festival MODAFE.

Maeng-ka Ko (musician) majored in Traditional Performing Arts at the Korea National University of Arts and won the grand prize at the 2024 10th Gyeyang Sang Gugak Festival. Additionally, performances include the HAKKA EXPO and the *Cultural Empathy Wanderers* sponsored by the Korea Culture and Arts Center Association (2022). Ko took home the grand prize at the 2023 National Gugak Competition and received the Prime Minister's Award at the 63rd Korean Folk Art Festival.

Eun-kyung Kim (singer) graduated at the top of the class in Traditional Music and Arts History from the Korea National University of Arts and majored in Cultural and Arts Management at Chung-Ang University Graduate School. Achievements include winning the grand prize at the 15th Wansan National Gugak Festival and performing at the Anyang Art in Day Gugak Band Oldham, the Korea Culture and Arts Commission Performing Arts Mid- and Long-Term Creative Support Project's Creative Pansori Snow Tree Concert, the Jeongdong Theater Repertory, and the Uijeongbu Music and Drama Festival.

About the Music

BALANCE & IMBALANCE

Samullori Instrumental Music

'Samullori Instrumental Music' refers to music composed of four types of folk percussion instruments: the Buk drum, Janggu drum, Jing gong, and Kwaenggwa-ri gong. In Korea's agricultural culture, these instruments were used by the people for various rituals, as well as entertainment means performed outdoors. This total performance art that organically combines music, dance, drama, and play is known as 'Pungmul nori' or 'Nongak.' In modern times, it has evolved into a performance form that reconstructs traditional melodies and is performed on stage.

Each instrument has its unique tone and role: 'Jing gong' provides a deep and weighty sound, grounding the music. 'Buk drum' offers a robust and strong sound, laying the foundation of the rhythm. 'Janggu drum' creates a diverse rhythm with its use on both sides of the drum. 'Kwaenggwa-ri gong' adds a sharp and lively sound, energizing the piece. Through the harmony of these four instruments, Samullori creates a unique sense of rhythm and dynamic sound.

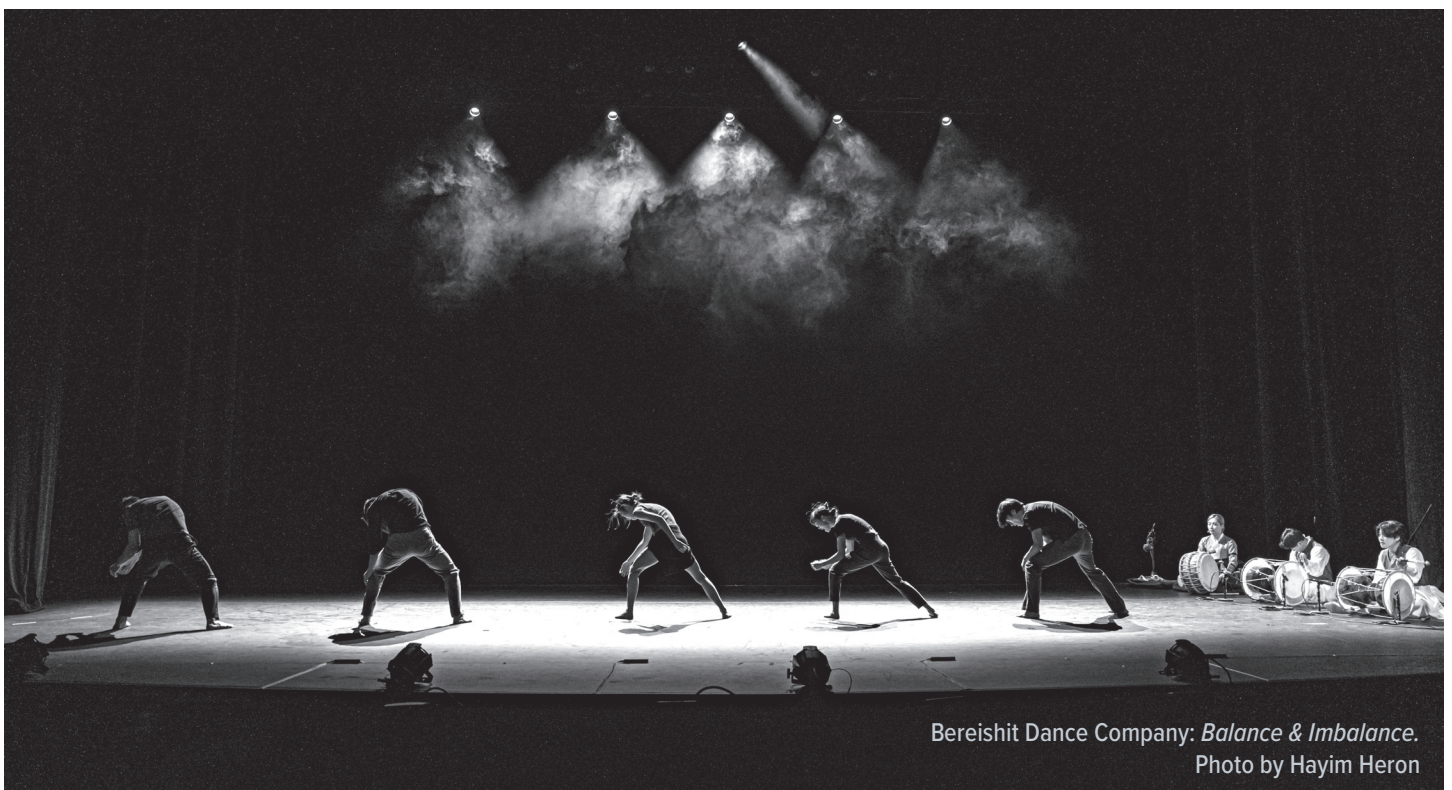
Pansori epic chant

Pansori is a traditional Korean oral epic form that combines captivating storytelling with musical expression. It is a unique genre of Korean traditional music. 'Pan' means 'a place where many people gather,' and 'Sori,' which means 'song'. It is a genre in which a singer and a 'Gosu' (a drummer) weave a musical story into a performance for and audience. The story is told through 'Chang' (songs), which is sung to a rhythm, and 'Aniri' (words), which has its own rhythmical formula, creating a full and enriching content, amplified through 'Nureumsae' (movement).

About 'Sugungga'

The Korean traditional music genre 'Pansori' includes the work 'Sugungga,' which is a fable that anthropomorphizes various animals such as turtles, whales, tigers, rabbits, and more. Through its structure of opposition, it embodies the aesthetic of satire and humor.

The story unfolds with a repetitive pattern of 'underwater palace → land → underwater palace → land.' The world represented by the Dragon King and the turtle symbolizes the strong, namely the rulers and the ruling class, while the world represented by the rabbit and the fox symbolizes the weak, namely the common people and the ruled class. The characters (animals) in 'Sugungga' and the worlds they represent also show the opposition between the strong and the weak.



Bereishit Dance Company: *Balance & Imbalance*.
Photo by Hayim Heron

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Photo by Hayim Heron



Bereishit Dance Company: *Judo*.
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