

@STAR1 JUL Issue 2022 [NCT HAECHAN] INTERVIEW

HAECHAN, he is just light!

If it's a song, it's a song, if it's a choreography, it's a choreography. NCT's Haechan, who wears the modifiers 'good job' and 'stage genius'. Hae-chan, who shows perfect moves to the point where he hears complaints from domestic and foreign NCTzens, "What can't you do?" because of his unique skills as a main vocalist as well as clean dance lines, met with AtStyle again as a solo pictorial. Haechan made a comeback in May with NCT DREAM's "Beatbox," which is full of freshness, and is simply presenting music that is possible because it is a DREAM. The lyrics and melody containing hopeful and positive messages are continuing the topic of conversation every day with the killing point of "Beatbox," and Haechan and the members' performance as well as perfect harmony and energetic charm. This year, Haechan is showing more diverse activities than anyone else with different atmosphere by working in both NCT DREAM and NCT 127. The reason why Haechan can show so many different sides is because his passion for music and his heart towards NCT are sincere. Even to the evaluation of the public as 'all-rounder', he gave a calm reply, saying, 'For me, music is singing and dancing, so I just work hard on both. After facing Haechan's sincerity towards music, I realize how heavy the weight of his 'passion' is. That is the reason why Haechan's shy smile on his face, saying that his love for this job has not changed since his debut until now, doesn't seem to be erased for a long time.

Q. How do you feel about having a photo shoot alone without the members?

A. It was my first solo pictorial, so I had high expectations. I was also worried about that. Still, thanks to everyone's help, I thought it came out beautifully. NCTzen must have been looking forward to it, but I'm also looking forward to it because I think the results will come out well.

Q. You're spending your days busily, right?

A. NCT DREAM's 2nd full-length repackage album, "BEATBOX" came out, so we're working hard. As NCT 127, we're having a dome tour in Japan. I've been busy as I have a lot of schedules. I'm so happy to be able to meet our fans and learn many things even though I'm busy.

Q. You must feel new because there are many stages where you can meet overseas fans after a long time.

A. That's right. I couldn't believe it until we had a tour schedule and went on a plane. It was so awkward to go on a plane. In fact, before the pandemic, I went on a lot of tours abroad and had a lot of shootings, so I had to pack up as soon as I got back to Korea and unpacked my luggage. Now I'm excited and looking forward to just packing my suitcase. More than anything, it's the most fun thing for us to meet and perform with our fans, so the thought of being able to go meet our fans makes us feel good.

Q. You made a comeback with "Beatbox" and I thought that refreshing music was like NCT DREAM itself.

A. At first, I thought it was a great song to listen to. I also thought a lot about how to make a good performance for this song. The choreographers made the choreography well, so the performance itself came out really well. First of all, DREAM members really like this song, so I think we can do it with confidence.

Q. The point choreography was especially fun.

A. Before the release of "Beatbox", we decided to pre-release some of the songs and choreography through the short form promotion. So, some people suggested that we need a dance for the challenge. All the members and choreographers gathered and had a meeting, and Jisung came up with a great idea. It naturally went into the choreography. As a member, I was thankful and proud that the member made the point dance.

Q. Not only NCT DREAM, but you're also continuously promoting as NCT 127. You're going to have a busy time. Is there any way to heal HAECHAN?

A. There are times when I am tired and exhausted at work. But actually, I think there's definitely healing that you can feel while working. When you feel tired while working, it gets better over time. If I do well on the things I have to do, such as performing on stage or other schedules, it's healing in itself. I think today's tiredness from work is finally solved by work. While monitoring the performance today, I thought I sang better. If you feel that you expressed the choreography better, I think that's enough to look forward to tomorrow. Of course, eating delicious food and chatting with the members is

a big healing for me.

Q. Haechan in NCT DREAM seems to be different from NCT 127.

A. I think the roles that I have to play in NCT DREAM and NCT 127 are different. Aside from the music, I think the chemistry with the members shows a slightly different side between the two groups. If NCT 127 is cute and mischievous, I think I'm in the middle of the older and younger members, so I'm reliable, but I think I'm showing a variety of charms that continue NCT DREAM's cheerful vibe.

Q. NCT DREAM members all became adults last year. Since They're all in their 20s, I wonder what the members talked about.

A. What the members are saying in common these days is that it's time to change their image. The biggest advantage of NCT DREAM itself is that it can show how it grows step by step. Of course, most of them are perfect from the beginning. Since all the members debuted when they were young, I'm sure the public and fans thought it was cute to see us not doing well. All the members have grown up, and the period of being fresh and clumsy is over. "These kids are growing up. Now they're really showing us." I think that's why I'm preparing more every time I performance. More than anything, comparing the early days of NCT DREAM and now, I think there was something I could do well. I was able to naturally grow up by capturing that well and setting up the stage.

Q. Do you realize NCT DREAM's growth?

A. First of all, each member's capabilities are competitive, but I felt that the atmosphere itself has grown a lot. Jisung and Chenle also showed remarkable growth after they were over 20. I think all the members have changed the most from being a boy to a young man.

Q. When do you feel that you've grown the most compared to when you first debuted?

A. I still don't feel like I'm an adult, but haha. My heart is still the same as when I debuted. But now I'm learning more about what I should be doing. In the past, even when I was young, I wanted to look cool. It was then. Even if it doesn't fit well, I want to show that I'm cool and charismatic. But now that I think about it, what I could do at

that time was 'Chewing Gum' (laughs). I am learning a lot about the strengths of only that age group and what I can do well right now. Of course, it's still hard to say that I can do sexy and intense things like other seniors, but I still think that only 23-year-old Haechan can show you.

Q. If You were to pick one thing that never changed.

A. The love of this job. This has never changed. I think it's gotten deeper. When I first debuted, I liked to be on TV, and it was fascinating to meet seniors that I've only seen on TV. I used to enjoy more than the concept of work, but now I often think that what I do is work with so many people. I feel a lot of responsibility. That's why I feel like I'm getting closer to my work and I'm deeply into it's good.

Q. How do you feel about the praise and evaluation of 'all-rounder' towards Haechan?

A. From the beginning, I thought dancing and singing were part of music, so naturally, I think I wanted to do everything well. Also, when I hear the evaluation of 'all-rounder', I am grateful and I feel like I must not lose my expectations. I have to work harder.

Q. Is there any compliment you would like to give to Haechan, who has lived without losing his passion?

A. I want to commend me for not giving up. Everyone has moments of hardship and exhaustion. Whatever it is, I think I overcame it well. Rather, when I think about it now, I went through a difficult time so well that I think, 'I was tired and exhausted at that time'. That's the part I'd like to commend the most.

Q. What motivates you to overcome it?

A. It's the members. Because if I were to suffer alone, it wouldn't have been easy to overcome. I rely on the members and nag me when I'm tired. I think I was able to do it until now because of the members around me.

Q. Do you have any goals you would like to achieve this year?

A. A lot of things are planned, but I still want to spend time doing things I love. I want

to take time not only for my work, but also for my personal abilities. I try to write songs and do a lot of things I like.

Q. So, what would you say to NCTzen one last time?

A. Thanks to everyone's anticipation and love, I was able to take a solo pictorial like this. In the future, we will spend a lot of time with NCTzen and move forward. I hope you will always be by my side and support me with a smile!