



Newsletter

MIN-ON CONCERT ASSOCIATION



SWEDEN

May
Barbara Hendricks

Visitors to Min-On

Coming Soon

Barbara Hendricks

China National Peking Opera Company

Recent Events

Tianjin Song & Dance Theatre Performs in Japan

Performing the Multi-hued Rhythms of Latin America

Commemorating Concerts Held of George Enescu

News in Brief

Connecting People through Music

"Russia and Japan Have a Great Deal in Common"



CHINA

June-July
China National Peking
Opera Company

Visitors to Min-On



[2005]

- Tianjin Song & Dance Theatre (Sep. 13)
- Mr. Geleqpil Chuluunbaatar, Director of the Mongolian Academy of Science's Institute of Philosophy (Sep. 17) — Photo A
- Conductor, Mr. Kim Pilju (Sep. 21)
- Los Mecateros & Cheo Hurtado Ensemble (Oct. 13)
- Mr. Sodobjamsyn Khurelbaatar, Foreign Ministry of Mongolia (Oct. 18)
- Mr. Bogoljub Karic, founder of Braca Karic University in Serbia and Montenegro (Oct. 27) — Photo B
- Ms. Consoliza Laguardia, Board Chairperson, Office of the President of the Philippines (Oct. 29)
- Mr. Valentin M. Sidorov, the Chairman of the Union of Artists of Russia (Oct. 31)
- Dr. Manfred Osten (Oct. 31) — Photo C
- Alain Moglia & Paris Super Strings (Nov. 22) — Photo D

Coming Soon

Barbara Hendricks

After Five Years, a Long-Awaited Return to Japan

Barbara Hendricks, one of the world's leading sopranos, will perform in Japan for the first time in five years this May. Ms. Hendricks will deliver soprano recitals in Tokyo, Nagoya and Kyoto, and orchestra concerts in Tokyo and Osaka. The orchestra concerts will commemorate the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth.



"Liu" of the opera *Turandot*

Ms. Hendricks' background is rather unique in that before studying voice at the Julliard School of Music, she earned a bachelor of science degree. Since making her operatic debut in 1974 playing Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, she has developed a broad repertoire encompassing both classical and modern works, and both elegant and dramatic roles. In 1998, Ms. Hendricks performed the role of Liu in the acclaimed performance of the opera *Turandot* at the Forbidden City in Beijing.

Over the past 30 years, even while performing on the world's premier stages, Ms. Hendricks has dedicated herself to humanitarian activities. She founded the Barbara Hendricks Foundation for Peace and

Reconciliation and also serves as a goodwill ambassador of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in which capacity she has visited refugee camps around the world.

For the upcoming Japan engagements, Barbara Hendricks has personally selected the pieces for all of the programs.

During the recitals, she will perform a lied by Beethoven based on a poem by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a lied by Francis Poulenc, works by Gustav Mahler, and so on. In the orchestral performances, she will feature major works by Mozart.

This will be an incomparable event filled with beautiful music and the resonant words sung in many different languages.

| Performance Schedule | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----|-------------------|
| MAY | Soprano Recital | MAY | Orchestra Concert |
| 9 | Nagoya | 14 | Tokyo |
| 12 | Tokyo | 19 | Osaka |
| 17 | Kyoto | | |

A Return Visit to Japan in Response to Calls for an Encore! China National Peking Opera Company



In June 2006, in response to enthusiastic calls for an encore performance, China National Peking Opera Company will be returning to the Min-On stage. Their previous appearance was in 2002. This time the group will be performing highlight scenes from *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*.

China National Peking Opera Company, which is affiliated with China's Ministry of Culture, was founded in 1955 with Mei Lanfang, who is renowned for spreading Peking Opera throughout the world, as its first director. The company, which has performed in more than 40 countries in North America, Europe and Asia, truly represents the pinnacle of Peking Opera.

The Romance of the Three Kingdoms depicts the history of the rise and fall of kingdoms during the Three Kingdom period, an age of strife in latter Han China (180–280). For the Japan performance, the company will perform a number of scenes that focus on the activities of Zhuge Liang, one of the many heroes appearing in *The Romance*.

The script, by the renowned Chinese playwright Wu Guang, was specially adapted for the performances in Japan. The cast includes many top Chinese artists and recipients of the Mei Lanfang Award and other honors.



| Performance Schedule | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|-------|------------|----|-----------|
| JUNE | | | | JULY | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 12 | Yamagata | 20 | Kawasaki | 29 | Hiroshima | 8 | Kobe | 17 | Gifu | 25 | Tokyo | | | |
| 6 | Yokohama | 13 | Morioka | 22 | Nagasaki | 30 | Matsuyama | 1 | Takamatsu | 9 | Kakogawa | 19 | Ichinomiya | 27 | Tokyo |
| 7 | Kofu | 15 | Niigata | 23 | Kitakyushu | | | 3 | Osaka | 12 | Kanazawa | 20 | Toyohashi | 28 | Tokyo |
| 8 | Shizuoka | 16 | Fukushima | 25 | Kagoshima | | | 4 | Osaka | 14 | Moriyama | 21 | Ichikawa | 30 | Hamamatsu |
| 10 | Akita | 17 | Sagamiono | 26 | Miyazaki | | | 5 | Wakayama | 15 | Yokkaichi | 23 | Mito | 31 | Numazu |
| 11 | Sendai | 19 | Yokosuka | 27 | Fukuoka | | | 7 | Kyoto | 16 | Nagoya | 24 | Kawaguchi | | |

The Unsurpassed Beauty of Asia

Tianjin Song & Dance Theatre Performs in Japan



Between September and November 2005, China's Tianjin Song & Dance Theatre performed at venues across Japan at Min-On's invitation.

The group presented a wide and varied selection of pieces representing China's traditional performing arts and the dynamic folk culture of Tianjin. All of the pieces were created by the Tianjin Song & Dance Theatre.

Audience members commented as follows: "I was

thoroughly captivated by each one of the pieces. I thought it was wonderful how even their eyes were so expressive." "The stage design, the colors, and the performance all conveyed emotions of another country. It was most impressive." "I have seen Chinese theater on many occasions, but there were many things in the performance today that I had never seen before. It was fantastic. I'm really glad that I came." "I was very much looking forward to the performance because it received such high critical praise. Not only was it elegant, but it was powerful and joyous. If the opportunity should arise, I would definitely like to see it again."

Los Mecateros & Cheo Hurtado Ensemble Visit Japan

Performing the Multi-hued Rhythms of Latin America

In a first for Min-On, two traditional folk instrument ensembles representing Mexico and Venezuela jointly performed during the months of October and November.

The Marimba group Los Mecateros of Mexico, which has performed on the Min-On stage six times since 1987, continues to spellbind the world with its outstanding technique. Through skillful use of the Marimba, the group beautifully performed a repertoire of music ranging from Mexican folk to classical.

The Cheo Hurtado Ensemble is an outstanding string ensemble, the group spun the multi-hued

rhythms of Venezuela through refined and elegant sound on the Cuatro, a small four-stringed instrument resembling the Ukulele.

Audience members praised the collaboration event as follows: "It was truly a joyful concert! I was moved by the clear sound of the Cuatro." "It was a supreme display of passion and vitality." "I'd never imagined one could hear Chopin in Latin music. This has expanded my musical horizons."



Commemorating Concerts Held

The 50th Anniversary of the Passing of George Enescu

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the passing of the extraordinary Romanian artist George Enescu, a talk concert was held on November 18 and a piano concert was held on December 22 in the Classical Piano Room of the Min-On Music Museum. The talk concert was attended by embassy personnel from six countries, including Ukraine and Lithuania. Dignitaries included Ambassador Aurelian Neagu of Romania.

After greetings by Ambassador Neagu, Councilor



Stoian delivered a presentation on Romanian culture. Many of those attending the event were hearing Enescu's works for the first time,

and so found the talk extremely valuable. Afterwards, the Romanian violinist Hontila Claudiu and the Japanese pianist Shoko Takeuchi performed the Romanian folk song "Capriccio" and Enescu's piece "Balada."

One person attending the event remarked, "In the Romanian folksong, there was something similar to Japanese culture." Another said, "Although I didn't know very much about Romania when I arrived, meeting the ambassador and coming into contact with the music of Romania made me feel that I would like to learn more about the country."

The piano concert featured pianist Ami Fujiwara, who has released the first CD collection in Japan of Enescu's works. Audience members were moved by Ms. Fujiwara's performance of various Enescu pieces, including the "Romanian Rhapsody No.1."



Leading South Korean Conductor Visits Min-On Culture Center Connecting People through Music

On September 21, 2005, conductor Kim Pilju visited the Min-On Culture Center in Tokyo. Mr. Kim is a president of the South Korean Conductor's Association and is one of the country's leading conductors. In 2002, he conducted the Bandang Symphony Orchestra during an extremely successful series of concerts at the Kennedy Center in New York.

During an informal discussion with Min-On President Hiroyasu Kobayashi, Mr. Kim remarked that he supported Min-On's founding ideals and principles "200 percent." He added, "While the political and economic situation of each country is different, music is common throughout the world. I think that if people work together then the walls between countries can be brought down. I ardently hope that the peoples of Korea and Japan will come together through music." Mr. Kim added that he hoped

to do everything in his power to contribute to cultural exchange for the sake of peace.

After the discussion, Mr. Kim viewed the Min-On Music Museum.

In the Classical Piano Room, they carefully listened to each piano, expressing acclaim at the high quality of the instruments. Describing his feelings on viewing the collection of Music Library, he remarked, "I am most impressed by Min-On's enterprises. I pray for your boundless development."

In November, the Seoul Symphonica performed in Kyushu and surrounding areas under Mr. Kim's baton.



Chairman of the Union of Artists of Russia Visits Min-On Culture Center "Russia and Japan Have a Great Deal in Common"



On October 31, 2005, the Chairman Valentin M. Sidorov of Union of Artists of Russia visited the Min-On Culture Center.

Welcomed on his arrival by the entire Min-On staff, Mr. Sidorov exuberantly

remarked, "How wonderful! Thank you very much for this welcome. I feel like I am in a musical." In response to a bouquet of flowers from Min-On founder Daisaku Ikeda, he exclaimed, "Nowhere are flowers displayed more beautifully than they are in Japan. I am most deeply grateful."

In a discussion with Min-On president, Chairman Sidorov, who is himself a painter, talked about Russian and Japanese culture. "Russia and Japan have a great deal in common. In particular, the very undercurrent of thought that forms the foundation of their cultures is the same." He added, "When it comes to basing oneself on the prime

point of the human being—such as truth, simplicity, rectitude—Japan and Russia have much in common." They discussed relations between such mediums as painting and poetry, photography and music.

With regard to Min-On's history of 42 years, Mr. Sidorov said he was deeply moved by Min-On's philosophy and actions. "From the bottom of my heart, I support all of your efforts."

Afterwards, Mr. Sidorov and his party viewed the Music Museum. In response to a classical piano performance, International Confederation of Artists' Union Chairman of executive committee Masut M. Fatkurin, who was in the group, remarked with a look of delight, "I was stunned. I felt as if the sounds of the age of great composers had been revived in the present." "This was a supreme present of incomparable value!" He added, "I would like to express my heartfelt respect for Min-On's efforts to protect the cultural heritage of humankind and transmit it to future generations."

From start to finish, the visit was pervaded with an amiable atmosphere.

News Flash — Two National Orders Conferred to Min-On's Founder

On December 2, 2005 the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela conferred upon Min-On's founder Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, President of SGI the Order of Francisco de Miranda, First Class, named after Venezuelan independence leader Francisco de Miranda (1750–1816). The conferral took place at the official residence of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Ambassador to Japan Mr. Seiko Ishikawa in Tokyo.

He also received the Order of Merit "Grand Ufficiale," the highest award awarded by the Italian government to a civilian for contributing to Italy through distinguished service, philanthropic and humanitarian activities in various fields, including literature and art. The conferral took place at the official residence of the Italian Ambassador to Japan Mr. Mario Bova in Tokyo on January 30, 2006.



No. 57
JAN/FEB/MAR 2006

Min-On Concert Association

Public Relations and Publicity

8, Shinano-machi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 160-8588

Publisher: Yukio Yamaguchi

Editors: Maki Horie/Junko Takeuchi/Daniel Samos

Photographer: Yukinori Akaike

Tel: 03-5362-3400 Fax: 03-5362-3401

Website: <http://www.min-on.or.jp>

E-mail: publicrelations@min-on.or.jp