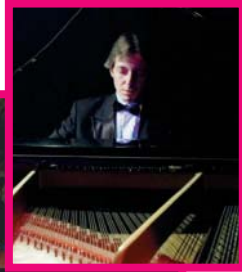
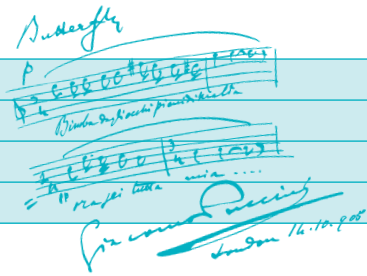


Newsletter

MIN-ON CONCERT ASSOCIATION



Maestro
Fernand Marzan

Argentina

< 2008 >
January–March
The Min-On Tango
Series <39>
Tango Dance Premium

Visitors to Min-On

Coming Soon

The Min-On Tango Series <39> Tango Dance Premium

Vienna Waltz & Operetta: Best Selections II

Recent Events

"Philip Koutev" Choir Gives Tokyo Performance

Arts Ensemble of Madagascar Completes Nationwide Tour

News in Brief

Midori Goto Quartet: Report on Vietnam Community Engagement Activities Held at Min-On Culture Center

Yearning for Lasting Japan-Korea Friendship



Austria

< 2008 >
January

The 2008 Min-On
New Year's Concert

Maestro
Siegfried Andraschek

Visitors to Min-On



- Mr. Zhang Aiping, Minister of the People's Republic of China (June 7)
- H.E. Dr. Askar A. Kutanov, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic (June 22) — Photo A
- Rector Esteban Vicente Horna Bances, National University of Santa of Peru (June 22)
- Mr. Li Zhenfu, researcher of the Dunhuang Academy (June 29)
- A delegation from the Chinese Exchange Friendship Association (July 4)
- President Gennady Turmov of Far Eastern Technical University of Russia (July 11)
- H.E. Mr. Daijiro Nakamura, Ambassador of the Republic of Palau (July 17) — Photo B
- H.E. Mr. Miguel Ruiz-Cabanas, Ambassador of Mexico (July 18) — Photo C
- Bulgarian "Philip Koutev" Choir (July 23)
- Mayor Zheng Qiang of Turpan City of the Xingjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China (July 27)
- Mr. Zhang Zhi, vice director of the Tianjin Municipal Cultural Bureau of China (August 3)
- Members of the Malagasy Arts Ensemble (August 18)
- Mr. Toshiro Shimura, ward chief of Nerima Ward in Tokyo (August 22) — Photo D
- Vice Mayor Zhang Hong of Wulumuqi City of the Xingjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China (August 31)

Coming Soon

The Min-On Tango Series <39> Tango Dance Premium A Dream Match-up of Five World Champions!



Gisela & Gasper



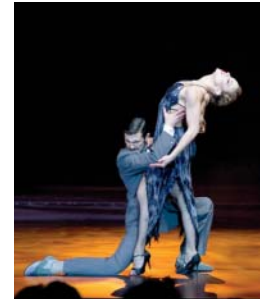
Marcela & Ivan



Carolina & Germán



Diana & Carlos



Natalia & Fernando

The 39th installment of the acclaimed Min-On Tango Series will be held during the first three months of 2008. The upcoming production will feature five dance couples who have taken top honors in the Stage Tango category at the Buenos Aires Tango World Championships, which has been held each year since 2003.

The couples, accompanied by the Orquesta Fernando Marzan, will perform a series of lovely dances exhibiting their unique styles and strengths.

Maestro Fernando Marzan is an outstanding pianist who once served as music director of *Forever Tango*. The orchestra, joined by vocalist Vanesa Quiroz, will perform such classics as "La Cumparsita" and "Libertango." We hope you will join us for this landmark event.



Vanesa Quiroz



Orquesta Fernando Marzan

- 54 performances are scheduled in 45 cities throughout Japan.
- Please refer to the following HP for more details. <http://www.min-on.or.jp/>

The 2008 Min-On New Year's Concert Vienna Waltz & Operetta: Best Selections II

A special production of the Vienna Waltz & Operetta by the Wiener Operettenorchester, under the baton of Maestro Siegfried Andraschek, will be staged as the 2008 Min-On New Year's Concert. The Wiener

Operettenorchester, whose 2006 Japan performances won rave reviews, is made up of artists from many of the top Austrian orchestras, including the Wiener Staatsoper Orchester, the Volksoper Wien, and the Wiener Symphoniker.

They will present many famous songs from the operetta "Wiener Blut" by Johann Strauss II, along with a number of well-known Vienna waltzes and polkas suited to such a gala occasion. The production will feature soprano and baritone soloists, and a dance couple.



Performance Schedule

JANUARY	22	Yokohama	27	Kobe	
17	Nagoya	24	Tokyo	30	Sapporo
18	Fukuyama	25	Hamamatsu		
21	Sendai	26	Matsuyama		

Mysterious Songs from Bulgaria

“Philip Koutev” Choir Gives Tokyo Performance



The Tokyo performance by the “Philip Koutev” Choir of Bulgaria was held August 12 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Arts Space in Ikebukuro. The venue

for this demonstration of Bulgaria’s unique vocal techniques was filled to capacity, with many families in attendance. They were joined by the ambassadors and diplomatic staff of various countries, including Bulgarian Ambassador to Japan Blagovest Sendov.

One member of the audience commented, “It was a wonderful performance. It reminded me that the human voice is the most fantastic instrument.” Another said, “It was a succession of surprises. I found myself constantly wondering, ‘Are those voices? Is it sound?’ I really felt as if it was a kind of resonance from the heavens. I can only describe the effect as miraculous.”

A welcome reception hosted by the Bulgarian ambassador was held August 13 at the ambassador’s

residence, with members of the “Philip Koutev” Choir and Min-On staff attending. With no performances scheduled, everyone was able to enjoy a pleasant day of relaxation together with the ambassador and embassy staff.



Malagasy Official Visits Min-On Culture Center

Arts Ensemble of Madagascar Completes Nationwide Tour



On the morning of September 3, His Excellency Hermann Razafindravelo, secretariat general of the Ministry of Telecommunication, Post

and Communication of the Republic of Madagascar, visited the Min-On Culture Center, accompanied by First Counsellor Jeannot Feno of the Malagasy Embassy. The officials were received by Min-On President Hiroyasu Kobayashi.

In the course of their discussion, Mr. Razafindravelo remarked: “I came to Japan with instructions from President Marc Ravalomanana of Madagascar, who regards these performances in Japan as an important cultural milestone for our country. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Min-On founder Dr. Daisaku Ikeda and to everyone at Min-On for their help in making the tour such a great success.” He said that culture is intrinsic to a country’s development, explaining that flourishing culture leads to economic and political development. To mark the occasion of his visit, the dignitary was presented with the Min-On Award of Highest Honor.

“A Musical Voyage across Africa: The World of Malagasy Dance & Music” recently completed an 18-city nationwide tour.

The Tokyo performance of the highly acclaimed production was held September 7. Mrs. Erna Lisa Radifera, wife of Madagascar’s ambassador to Japan, along with the ambassadors and diplomatic personnel of 12 African countries, enjoyed this magnificent celebration of Malagasy music and dance.



Midori Goto Quartet: Report on Vietnam Community Engagement Activities Held at Min-On Culture Center



In 2002, the world-renowned violinist Midori Goto formed a special program for young musicians to engage in an activity called "Music Sharing." This involves visiting hospitals, public facilities and music schools in developing countries to conduct exchanges with children or young musicians. A presentation

on the group's activities in Vietnam last year was given on June 8 at the Min-On Music Museum.

The group, traveling with the support of Min-On and others, carried out activities for 10 days in Vietnam during December 2006. The gathering to report on their trip was attended by many figures from the media and the music world. In addition to an explanation of the community engagement activities that Ms. Goto's and three others conducted in Vietnam, there was a performance of

Dvořák's String Quartet No. 12, op. 96.

Ms. Goto related anecdotes from her exchanges with Vietnamese children, talked about how enjoying music enriches one's life, and described her surprise at the wonderful performances given by Vietnamese children performing on instruments that she had never seen before.



Japan-Korea Hip Hop Dance Competition Yearning for Lasting Japan-Korea Friendship

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the first Korean Delegations to the Tokugawa Shogunate from the Yi Dynasty. In an attempt to create a new history of friendship, Japanese and South Korean hip hop artists recently delivered performances in 21 Japanese cities with the goal of inspiring a new era of Japan-Korea cultural exchange spearheaded by youth.

Hitting the dance floor from South Korea was the nine-member B-Boy Maximum Crew that took first place at the 2006 Hip Hop World Championships in Canada.



Japan was represented by six talented dancers who have been involved in numerous large events as choreographers and as dancers. Night after night, they vied to top one another with their astounding dance skills.

For the finale, the dancers presented a collaborative number, "Bolero: Earth, Water, Fire and Wind." The piece magnificently expresses a shared Asian worldview that underlies Japanese and Korean cultural identities, and a yearning for lasting friendship between the two countries.



No. 64
OCT/NOV/DEC 2007

Min-On Concert Association

Public Relations and Publicity

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

Publisher: Yukio Yamaguchi Editors: Tsuneyoshi Kuchinaka/Maki Horie/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