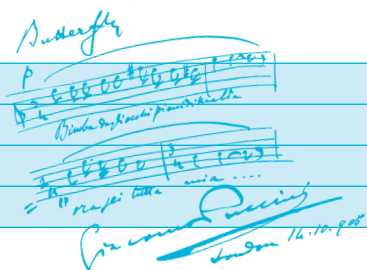


Newsletter

MIN-ON CONCERT ASSOCIATION



Conductor: Karmina Šilec

Slovenica

June-August
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Women's Choir

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Visitors to Min-On



- A delegation from Argentina Tango Dance Premium (January 18)
- Rector Roberto Reyna of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (January 18) — Photo A
- President Ricardo A. Wagan of the Philippines' Laguna State Polytechnic University (January 24) — Photo B
- Mayor Seiya Okazaki of Kochi City, Kochi (January 25)
- A delegation from Katmandu City Assembly (February 3) — Photo C
- A delegation from Universitas Negeri Pendidikan Indonesia (February 18)
- A delegation from the Mongolia National Congress (February 26)
- President Tian Yin Hua of the Hunan University of Science and Technology of China (March 2)
- Mr. Wang Binggen, Bingxin Center, China (March 15)
- A delegation from the Yunnan Nationalities Museum (March 17)
- Mr. Albert Likhonof, Russian Children's Foundation (March 17)
- Mr. and Mrs. Amaral Vieira, Composer and pianist of Brazil (March 17)
- Chairman Sethu Kumanan of Soka Ikeda College of Arts and Science for Women (March 19) — Photo C
- Rector A. Bekboev of Kyrgyz State University (March 20)
- H.E. Dr. José Antonio Abreu, former Minister of Culture of Venezuela (March 20)
- A delegation from the Culture Promotion Organization of Fukushima Prefecture (March 27)
- Dr. Cheng Biao, President of Jiaying University, China (March 30)
- H.E. Saúl Arana Castellón, Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua (March 31) — Photo D
- Mr. Hans Henningsen, former principle of Askov Folk High School, Denmark (March 31)

Coming Soon

Carmina Slovenica Women's Choir to Visit Japan! Radiant Voices from Slovenia, the Green Jewel of Europe



Carmina Slovenica, an internationally-acclaimed choir from historic Slovenia, the green jewel of Europe, will be touring Japan during the month of June. Formed in 1964 as the Central Choir Maribor, Carmina Slovenica has developed an international reputation through its performance and recording activities.

The group's purpose is to provide high-level music instruction, help choir members develop their musical talent, cultivate interest in music, deepen a spirit of friendship and solidarity, and promote exchange with various countries through performance activities. With a repertoire that includes songs of Slovenia and choral works from around the world, Carmina Slovenica carries out activities with the goal of promoting peace through music. Composed of women between the ages of 13 and 18, it has achieved considerable renown with its appearances in South Africa, Canada, Germany, the United States, and other countries. Also, through its participation in the World Music

Days, the World Symposium on Choral Music, the European Symposium on Choral Music and other international events, the group has become well known to choral music fans around the world.



For the upcoming engagements, Carmina Slovenica will perform traditional music of Slovenia, classical masterpieces by Bach, Sibelius and others, and songs of Japan—all accented with innovative and highly original choreography, and against a backdrop of breath-taking images and movie-clips.

Performance Schedule

June		July			
22	Fukuoka	26	Kobe	6	Nagoya
23	Nobeoka	28	Kushiro	9	Tokyo
25	Osaka	29	Tomakomae	11	Hiroshima
		30	Sapporo	12	Kurume
				4	Yokohama

World Music Selection

Four-Nation Central American Music Festival



From Costa Rica



From Guatemala



From Honduras



From Panama

This summer Min-On will be bringing four groups of artists representing the four Central American countries of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama to perform in an event being billed as the Central American Music Festival.

The festival will be divided into the two parts. During the first part, the groups from Costa Rica and Honduras will give performances in the eastern part of Japan, while the groups from Guatemala and Panama will perform in the western part of the country. For the second part, the four groups will collaborate in staging a Central American Music Festival that will visit a number of major cities, including Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka.

The group Editus from Costa Rica, a veteran ensemble with a 17-year history, performs modern and traditional Jazz, New Age, and a fusion of classic music with Latin American rhythms.

The Alfonso Bautista Marimba Ensemble is the state Marimba ensemble of Guatemala led by Alfonso Bautista, who is one of Guatemala's top musicians.

Hailing from Honduras, Guillermo Anderson and his band Ceibana combine Afro-Caribbean percussion with contemporary sounds, local rhythms and Honduran folklore.

San Blas of Panama is composed of seven internationally-recognized Panamanian musicians. The group performs traditional melodies of Panama and Latin America with modern arrangements and a modern style.

The hot sounds of Central America will be making the rounds of Japan this summer.

- 50 performances are scheduled in 47 cities throughout Japan.
- Please refer to the following HP for more details: <http://www.min-on.or.jp/>

From China

Yunnan Nationalities Museum Names Min-On Founder Honorary Chairman



In a ceremony held March 17 at the Min-On Culture Center, the prestigious Yunnan Nationalities Museum conferred the title of Honorary Chairman on Min-On founder SGI President Daisaku Ikeda. The museum houses a collection of ethnic costumes, folk arts, folk music instruments, and ancient artifacts of Yunnan Province, which is home to some 25 ethnic minorities. The conferral ceremony was held at the Min-On Culture Center on the afternoon of March 17.

In presenting the certificate, which was accepted on Mr. Ikeda's behalf by Min-On President Hiroyasu Kobayashi, Museum Director Xie Mohua remarked: "President Ikeda is well known to the people of China as a passionate advocate and proponent of cultural enterprises, an emissary of peace, and a witness to history who has worked hard to promote friendship between our countries. I am therefore deeply honored to have the opportunity to present this certificate."

In his acceptance message, President Ikeda stated: "To protect culture is to safeguard the treasures of humankind. To nurture culture is to nurture the hearts of youth. And to form cultural ties is to create peace." He described Mr. Xie as a "high-minded guardian of culture" and pledged to join him in working to further open and expand the path of culture to the world and into the future.



Former Minister of Culture of Venezuela Dr. José Antonio Abreu Visits the Min-On Culture Center



On the afternoon of March 20, H.E. Dr. José Antonio Abreu, former minister of culture of Venezuela paid a visit to the Min-On Culture Center as the representative of the Youth Orchestra of Venezuela. Dr. Abreu is the main force behind a movement to improve Venezuelan society by providing opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth to receive music instruction. His goal is to foster the growth of children and youth, and save them from lives of poverty and crime by providing music education and forming youth orchestras.

He has to date formed approximately 130 youth orchestra and 60 children's orchestras in 30 cities and towns across Venezuela, a country with a population of 26 million. In all, some 265,000 children have become involved in the study and performance of classical music through his efforts. These orchestras have produced a number of outstanding musicians, including one who at 17 was invited to join a world-renowned philharmonic orchestra in Germany. Dr. Abreu's activities have attracted considerable attention around the world.

In a discussion with Min-On President Hiroyasu Kobayashi, Dr. Abreu explained that music and culture

have a key role to play in elevating people's lives: "Music is deeply resonant with spirituality. This spirituality fosters a lofty sense of values and instills a sense of justice." In discussing the importance of music in humanistic education, he noted that not one participant in the Youth Orchestra of Venezuela has subsequently fallen into a life of crime, adding, "I am confident that this is an illustration of how music can change society for the better."

In 1991, when he was minister of culture, Dr. Abreu contributed a message to the program for the Min-On production of the Venezuelan ensemble Costa Caribe.



Min-On Culture Award and the Certificate of Honorary Member skip Presented Mongolian VIPs Visit the Min-On Culture Center



On the afternoon of February 26, Dr. Dambadarjaagiin Oyuntsetseg, wife of the Speaker of the Mongolia National Congress, and Shagdar Ganchimeg, wife of Mongolia's ambassador to Japan,

paid a visit to the Min-On Culture Center, where they were received by Min-On President Hiroyasu Kobayashi.

Dr. Oyuntsetseg, who is rector of the Shikhikhutug Higher School of Law, previously visited Japan in November 2002, at which time she presented Min-On founder SGI President Ikeda with an honorary doctorate from her university. In the course of the discussion, she related that she had unforgettable memories of her earlier visit to Soka University.

Observing that the issue of peace is taking on increasing importance amid current trends toward globalization, Dr. Oyuntsetseg said she attached great importance to Min-On's activities to contribute to world peace through cultural exchange. "The people of Mongolia highly applaud

President Ikeda's many contributions to peace and to exchange with Mongolia," she added.

To mark the occasion of their visit, Dr. Oyuntsetseg was presented with the Min-On Culture Award, and Mrs. Ganchimeg was made a special honorary member of Min-On.



A Min-On Music Museum's Public Services

Min-On Holds Hand-made Instrument "Music Experience Workshop"

A workshop for parents and children involving hand-made musical instruments was held March 30 as a public service activity of the Min-On Music Museum. Some 200 parents and children took part in the event, which was conducted by five professional musicians, including Hiroyuki Murase.

The teachers demonstrated how to make musical instruments out of familiar daily objects. For example, they fashioned a recorder by hollowing out and opening finger holes in a carrot, and made a drum by stretching tape over a bucket. The children expressed surprise and delight as each creation was produced.

With advice from the instructors, all of the parents and children made a one-stringed harp from a tambourine using a slat of bamboo and string. During the second part of the event, participants gave a performance using the instruments that they had made.

Many of those taking part commented about how much they had enjoyed creating things together with family members. One child wrote, "Making the instrument was

hard, but it was also fun." And a parent said, "I was glad we had the chance to work together as parent and child."

Min-On plans to hold more Music Experience Workshops with the goal of inspiring children's talent and wisdom, and deepening ties between parents and children.



News Flash

Min-On Music Museum Present "2008 Music Experience Workshop"

The Min-On Music Museum will be holding a workshop for parents and children involving hand-made musical instruments from July 22 through August 25 in 24 local community centers across Japan. For more information, please contact the public relations and publicity department at Min-On: Tel: 03-5362-3400



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