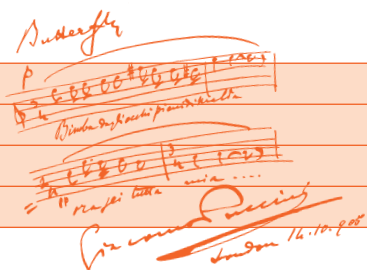


Newsletter

MIN-ON CONCERT ASSOCIATION



China

June-August

The Liao Ning Song and Dance Ensemble to Perform in Japan



Brazil

March-April

Amaral Vieira Piano Recital

Visitors to Min-On

Coming Soon

The Liao Ning Song and Dance Ensemble to Perform in Japan

Amaral Vieira Piano Recital

Recent Events

China National Acrobatic Troupe's Japan Performances a Great Success!

The Flower of Kathak and a Wondrous Competitive Percussion Performance

News in Brief

Five Letters of Appreciation from Russia to Min-On Founder

Two Compositions Presented to the Min-On Founder

Visitors to Min-On



- Members of the China National Acrobatic Troupe (September 10)
- Prof. Chang-Hung Chou, Chair Professor and Director, Research Center for Biodiversity, China Medical University of Taiwan (September 11)
- Dr. Julieta I. Ortiz, former president of the University of Southeastern Philippines, and delegation (September 14)
- Students of the Philippines Capital University (September 15)
- A delegation from the All-China Women's Federation (October 5) — Photo A
- President Fang Yu of Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an, China (October 7)
- Mr. Fatos Kerciku, Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Albania (October 19)
- A delegation from the All-China Youth Federation (October 20)
- First Vice President Ni Bangwen of the China Youth University for Political Sciences (October 23)
- President Qu Qingbiao of Liaoning Normal University of China (October 25)
- Rector B. Jadambaa of Mongolian State University of Education (October 26)
- A delegation from the Russian Cultural Foundation (November 5)
- H.E. Dr. H. Jusuf Anwar, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia (November 5) — Photo B
- Mayor Isoroku Sawada of Shimanto City, Kochi (November 13)
- Prof. Nicholas Gier, Honorary Professor of the University of Idaho (December 1)
- A delegation from the Chinese Culture Promotion Society (December 4)
- H.E. Mr. and Mrs. Mario Fernández Silva, Ambassador of the Republic of Costa Rica (December 4) — Photo C
- H.E. Mr. and Mrs. José Fernández de Cossío, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba (December 11) — Photo D
- Mr. Budi Setiawan, General Director of the Department of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of the United Indonesia Cabinet (December 11)

Coming Soon

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Peace and Friendship Treaty as well as Min-On's 45th Anniversary

The Liao Ning Song and Dance Ensemble to Perform in Japan

China is now finalizing preparations to host the Summer Olympics this year.

Liao Ning Province, which is known as the Hong Kong of northern China, has seen a striking influx of foreign companies, and is in the vanguard of the development a new culture that balances tradition and modernization. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Peace and Friendship Treaty as well as Min-On's 45th anniversary, we will be bringing the Liao Ning Song and Dance Ensemble to Japan to give a series of performances throughout the country.

The Liao Ning Song and Dance Ensemble was founded in November 1956 through the combination of dance, folk music, choral and acrobatic troupes. It is a unique and spirited review that seeks to rejuvenate traditional Chinese music and dance through use of modern arrangements and choreography. The ensemble has been highly acclaimed both in China and in the countries of Europe and Asia for showcasing Chinese aesthetic nuances and traditional performing arts in its thoroughly modern works.

The upcoming production, "Chinese Women Folk Music Show: Jasmine," takes for its theme the beauty and mystery of women, drawing comparisons with



flowers of various kinds. This highly innovative works, in which musicians playing traditional instruments mingle with the dancers and are constantly moving about on the stage, presents a vivid glimpse of dramatic changes unfolding on the landscape of Chinese history and culture. This magnificent production by an all-female cast of musicians and performers is an event not to be missed!

- 92 performances are scheduled in 55 cities throughout Japan.
- Please refer to the following HP for more details. <http://www.min-on.or.jp/>

The Pride of Brazil: Composer and Pianist Amaral Vieira to Visit Japan! Amaral Vieira Piano Recital



We are proud to announce that the representative Brazilian composer and pianist Amaral Vieira will be

giving a piano recital in cities across Japan during the months of March and April.

This will be Vieira's 7th visit to Japan. Vieira's performances are characterized not by a pursuit of what is showy, but by a pursuit of the essence of the piece. Putting to use the powerful technique that he acquired studying in Europe as a young man, Vieira blends Germanic force and vigor, with a French pallet of multi-hued color tones, and keen analytical ability, to meticulously recreate in each piece the thoughts and vision of the composer. For the upcoming recital, he will perform masterpieces of Tchaikovsky, Liszt, and Chopin.

Performance Schedule

March		April	
25	Takayama	10	Aizu-wakamatsu
18	Nagoya	27	Shimonoseki
20	Anjyo	2	Kobe
22	Kagamihara	5	Minoh
23	Ogaki	7	Tokyo
		8	Yokohama
		11	Nihonmatsu
		13	Minami-Soma
		15	Ishimaki
		18	Murayama
		20	Yokote
		21	Odate
		24	Muroran
		25	Obihiro
		27	Shimokita
		29	Mishima
		30	Iwata

Ambassadors from Many Countries Attend the Tokyo Performance China National Acrobatic Troupe's Japan Performances a Great Success!



The hugely successful China National Acrobatic Troupe's Japan tour began on September 12 and concluded with a performance in Numazu on December 24, for a total of 113 shows in 59 cities.

These profoundly moving and inspiring performances have become a landmark step in Min-On's efforts to promote cultural exchange with China.

The Tokyo performance on December 5 was attended by ambassadors and diplomatic staff from 21 countries, including Minister-Counsellor Zhang Aiping of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. Guests and members of the troupe enjoyed a congenial exchange at a reception following the Tokyo performance. December 5, the day of the performance, was the anniversary of the date when Min-On founder SGI President Ikeda met with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in 1974.

In her greetings as the representative of the visiting Chinese delegation, Wang Xioyun, director general of the Cultural Exchange Department of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with

Foreign Countries, noted that September 8, the day the troupe arrived in Japan, was the 39th anniversary of the date when President Ikeda called for the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China. She also pointed out that on December 5, the 33rd anniversary of Mr. Ikeda's meeting with Premier Zhou, the group performed in the Nakano area of Tokyo, which is where Zhou had lived during his student years in Japan.

In his greetings, Mr. Zhang said that he was deeply grateful to the Min-On founder, whom he described as a treasured friend of China.



Great Spirit: The Supreme Treasure of Traditional Indian Arts The Flower of Kathak and a Wondrous Competitive Percussion Performance



On January 29, the first performance of "Great Spirit: The Supreme Treasure of Traditional Indian Arts" was held in the city of Kawasaki, followed the next day by a performance in Tokyo. This production features eight members of the Uma Dogra Kathak Dance

Ensemble. Uma Dogra is a master of Kathak Dance, one of India's four great classical dances, which is said to have a history of 2,500 years. They were joined by the four-member Dhvani Percussion Ensemble. While producing a delicate percussive rhythm they gently moved their arms and performed lovely and complex dance steps. It was an astounding and thrilling performance.

January 30, the day of the Tokyo performance, was the 60th anniversary of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of Indian independence. During

the finale, Ms. Dogra took the microphone and remarked: "This is the day when Mahatma Gandhi died. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, Min-On's founder and my mentor, who gave us the opportunity to perform in Tokyo on this day." She then asked the members of the audience join her in a minute of silent prayer.



Five Letters of Appreciation from Russia to Min-On Founder Presentation Ceremony Held at Min-On Culture Center



On November 5, Elvira Lychkovskaya of the Russian Cultural Foundation and Yuri F. Podzorov of the Ensemble "Primorye & Ryabina" led a six-member delegation to the

Min-On Culture Center to present letters of appreciation from various Russian groups, agencies and municipalities for Min-On founder SGI President Ikeda. Min-On President Hiroyasu Kobayashi received the group and accepted the letters on Mr. Ikeda's behalf.

The letters of appreciation were from the Russian Cultural Foundation, the Irkutsk Oblast Department of Education, the City of Khabarovsk, Kavalerovsky District in Primorsky Krai (Maritime Province), and the Uzoroche Arts and Aesthetics Studio. At the presentation ceremony, Ms. Lychkovskaya related that she had accompanied the Russia Boys and Girls Folk Dance Troupe last July for the School Concert program organized by Min-On, saying, "Even now I cannot forget the smiles on the faces of the

students who saw our Russian folkloric culture for the first time, and how moved I was by noble works which Min-On has been doing." "I would like to express my heartfelt respect for Dr. Ikeda's outstanding philosophy in viewing children as 'treasures of the future,'" she said, adding, "I regard it as an honor to be able to present these letters of appreciation from these five bodies."



Two Compositions Presented to the Min-On Founder

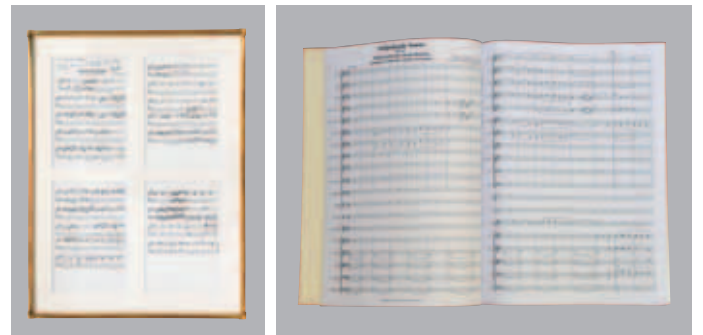


In January, Maestro Siegfried Andraschek, who was in Japan for the Min-On New Year's Concert "Vienna Waltz & Operetta," presented Min-On founder SGI President Ikeda

with a waltz that he had composed titled "Morning Sun." Before performing the piece, Andraschek remarked, "To commemorate President Ikeda's 80th birthday, I wanted to express my boundless feelings of appreciation to him by composing a waltz." He explained that this would be the work's world debut. The piece was performed at each concert venue during the tour. Mr. Andraschek also said, "I hope this piece will be performed not just in Japan but throughout the world, and that through it people everywhere will learn of Dr. Ikeda's profound spirit of love and friendship that transcends national boundaries."

Also, pianist Fernando Marzan, who was in Japan for "Tango Dance Premium," the 39th installment of the Min-On Tango Series, presented the Min-On founder with a composition titled "Misterios del Oriente." Marzan is

a highly talented and versatile artist who made a name for himself as musical director of the internationally-acclaimed Tango production "Forever Tango," and who has also won awards as a movie director. "I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Ikeda on his 80th birthday," he said, adding that he felt honored to be able to perform in Japan at this time. "I composed this piece to express my heartfelt sympathy with and my respect for Dr. Ikeda's convictions and beliefs."



"Misterios del Oriente" by Fernando Marzan (Left)
Waltz "Morning Sun" by Siegfried Andraschek (Right)



No. 65
JAN/FEB/MAR 2008

Min-On Concert Association

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