

Sony Music Foundation the 30th Anniversary

Sony Music Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2014.



〈 Projects Realized in the Past 〉

1. Organization and Sponsorship of International Festivals, Competitions etc.

- 〈 1 〉 Organization of Karuizawa Arts Festival [2007-2008]
- 〈 2 〉 Kurashiki Music Festival: Cooperation to chamber music concerts of the Festival Orchestra [2004-2006]
- 〈 3 〉 Planning and production of IPAF (International Performing Arts Festival) organized by the Agency for Cultural Affairs [2004]
- 〈 4 〉 All Japan College Orchestra Festival^{*1} [1986-2003]



*1 All Japan College Orchestra Festival



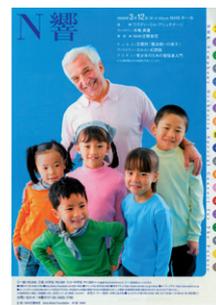
*2 Midori Goto
Photo: Henry Fair



*3 Jazz at Lincoln Center in YOKOHAMA

2. Creation, Development and Collaboration in the Fields of Music, Opera, Dance and Other Performing Arts

- 〈 1 〉 Revitalization of music halls across the country and promotion of music as a form of culture
 - Mozart's 250th birth anniversary project "Let's Listen to Amadeus" [2006]
 - Collaboration in the planning of concerts at Karuizawa Ohga Hall [2005]
 - Total Experience: Midori Goto Violin Recital^{*2} [2002 / 2005]
 - Eastman Wind Ensemble (EWE) Japan tours [1998-2004]
 - Alessio Bax Piano Concerts [2002-2004]
 - Caravelli et Son Grand Orchestre Japan tours [1996-2003]
 - Senri Oe's piano concert "PIANISM" [2003]
 - Collaboration project with Shibuya Ward, Tokyo: Jazz at Lincoln Center at SHIBUYA AX [2002]
 - Collaboration projects with the City of Hamamatsu:
 - Japan tour of the winners of the Hamamatsu International Piano Competition [1998]
 - Eastman School of Music Summer Seminars [1998-2001]
 - "PERFORMANCE TODAY" concert series [1986-1996]
 - Collaboration projects with the City of Yokohama:
 - Haydn "Die Schöpfung" [1998]
 - Jazz at Lincoln Center in YOKOHAMA^{*3} [1998]
 - Matsuo Basho's Oku-no Hosomichi on Piano [1995]
 - Sponsoring of "Freshmen Concerts" organized by the Japan Federation of Musicians
- 〈 2 〉 Projects to enhance children's sensitivity
 - NHK Symphony Orchestra "Special Concert for the Future"^{*4} [2006]
 - Co-production of La Folle Journée Japan "Days of Enthusiasm" and "Kids Program" [2005-2009]



*4 NHK Symphony Orchestra
"Special Concert for the Future"

〈 On Celebrating the 30th Anniversary 〉

At this time, I do not dare to say "congratulations" to the 30th anniversary. I would rather save the words till the celebration of the 50th, or even further, the 100th anniversary. 30 years, in human age, is the transitional year from adolescence to midlife and meridian. In terms of music, it is the end of the first movement going on to the second movement. It was sometime in spring 1984 when I was told from then-President Ohga (of Sony Corporation), "We are going to launch a foundation. Think about what to do." As a result of discussions, while many other foundations developed subsidy programs, we decided to focus on the realization of our fundamental principles as a project-oriented foundation. And so we launched the foundation by coordinating projects such as "Concert for Pre-Zero-Year-Olds", "THE INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION", "the All Japan College Orchestra Festival", "PERFORMANCE TODAY", and "seminars and master classes held by world-class artists" to name a few.

Later, the theme of the first movement has developed into diverse variations, resulting in a fulfilling culmination, and now it is time to go into the second movement.

I look forward to the further development of the theme and extend my sincere wishes to your steps ahead.

Sachiyo WATABE

(former Executive Director, Sony Music Foundation, 1984-1995)

Since I joined the Foundation, we had expanded our projects outside the scope of authentic classical music. When Sony Music Foundation invited Caravelli et Son Grand Orchestre for a Japan tour, all concerts had been organized by local authorities, who had kindly embraced us being a foundation and helped us bring the orchestra back to Japan many times. We also planned to bring the Eastman Wind Ensemble and Professor Hansberger, reflecting the popularity of wind instrument music in Japan and aiming to offer a reference to the musical education for such players. We received more responses and assents than we had expected from local organizers and education boards, which led to the realization of the project. The success of the project also led to the Ensemble's tour in China. Furthermore, "THE INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION", which had been launched under the strong leadership of Mr. Ohga, was an important project to our Foundation. It was held by succeeding Mr. Ohga's belief that oboe is the axle of the orchestra and therefore essential to raise the standards of oboists, in order to take the orchestras in Japan to the next level.

Taisuke ONISHI

(former Executive Director, Sony Music Foundation, 1995-2004)

"THE INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION", which now takes place in Karuizawa, moved to its current location at the then-newly opened Ohga Hall after having found some issues in holding it in Tokyo. The 8th Competition in 2006 marked its new step forward, renamed as "THE INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN in Karuizawa". The wonderful acoustic environment of the wooden-based hall eased the tension of the competition; the days spent under the "roof" of Karuizawa fostered the communication among the contestants as well as contact with the local community. Back then, Chairman Mr. Ohga used to say, "I want to turn Karuizawa into a musical town, just like Salzburg". I truly hope that this oboe competition grows into a worldly celebration of music evolving from Karuizawa.

Shigeto SAITO

(former Managing Director, Sony Music Foundation, 2004-2009)

The 30th Anniversary Projects



Listen to it, see it, feel it, and pass it
on to the next generation – the new, quality sensation

Sony Music Foundation, established in 1984, marked its 30th anniversary in 2014.

In addition to a variety of activities we had implemented over the years, we planned a number of projects to commemorate our 30th anniversary in order for more people to experience the splendor of music, and at the same time, aimed to be full of creativity targeting the next generation.

〈The 30th Anniversary Commemorative Concerts〉

- ♪ Premium Concerts for Teens (open to the 1st graders to age 19, and their parents)
- ♪ Lectures & Concerts (open to general public)
- ♪ Oboe Festa: Presented by the top prize winners of the 5th to the 9th “THE INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN in Tokyo/Karuizawa” (open to general public)
- ♪ “Concert for KIDS” the 30th Anniversary Projects

♪ Premium Concerts for Teens (open to the 1st graders to age 19, and their parents)

“Premium Concerts for the Teens” is a series of concerts that “offer quality music at special prices to children of the next generation”. We organized special programs tailored to the teens, which brought experiences different from our usual concerts, featuring the world’s leading artists such as the New York Philharmonic.

Premium Concerts for Teens [1] Alan GILBERT & New York Philharmonic

February 11, 2014 at Suntory Hall, Tokyo

Alan GILBERT (conductor & narrator) New York Philharmonic Makoto OZONE (piano) Joshua WEILERSTEIN (conductor)



Alan GILBERT taking on the narration in Japanese

Based on the “Young People’s Concerts” series renowned for originally being planned, conducted and performed by Leonard Bernstein and New York Philharmonic, we planned this special concert in time with the Japan tour of Alan Gilbert, the current musical director of the series (and winner of “the 4th Hideo Saito Memorial Fund Award” in 2005), and New York Philharmonic, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Sony Music Foundation.

A number of people in school uniforms gathered at Suntory Hall, the sanctuary of music. In addition to leading an exquisite performance, Alan Gilbert took on the challenge to do the narration in Japanese. Makoto Ozone also presided as the emcee; both made the concert highly original and iconic of the series. Furthermore, a musical piece composed by the children of New York as a response to the tune composed by pupils and students of Elementary and Junior High Schools Attached to Fukushima University had its Japan premiere. Children and their family members of the affected areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster, as well as those who had evacuated to Tokyo, were invited to the concert.



“Rhapsody in Blue” with Makoto OZONE



Pupils and students of Elementary and Junior High Schools Attached to Fukushima University



Students entering the hall at the opening of the doors

Premium Concerts for Teens [2] Berlin Philharmonic Horn Quartet

May 30, 2014 at Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall, Takemitsu Memorial



An ensemble with the Alpenhorn



Children filling the lobby

A concert featuring the horn players of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the world's top orchestra, the concert was presented in a unique style where the performers offered, along with the performance, illustrations of the history of horn in the first half and the music around the world in the second half. Many students who were wind

instrument music fans attended the concert, and the excitement of the night never ceased even after the performance.

Premium Concerts for Teens [3] Arcanto Quartett (string quartet)

October 5, 2014 at Dai-ichi Seimei Hall



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The concert featured Arcanto Quartett, the string quartet that takes the world as their stage. The Dai-ichi Seimei Hall, known for its acoustic excellence, was filled with starry-eyed children with violins who were carried away with the performance. The selection of tunes was received well by the audience; it did not only pursue

simplicity just because it was targeting children but also a level high enough to please the experts and allow the audience to enjoy the acoustic beauty of string instruments.

Premium Concerts for Teens [4] Les Vents Français (piano + woodwind quintet)

October 15, 2014 at Kioi Hall



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Autograph signing

A concert featuring Les Vents Français, an ensemble of piano and woodwind quintet that the world embraces. The setlist of popular songs familiar among the amateur musicians, along with the high-level performance and the performers' cross-talk session unique to this series, led to the tremendous surge of excitement coming from the audience.

Premium Concerts for Teens [5] Yu KOSUGE & Hisako KAWAMURA Piano Duo Recital

November 4, 2014 at Kioi Hall



©K. Miura



©K. Miura

The fifth of the series was represented by the two young Japanese pianists who have enjoyed outstanding performances abroad. It turned out to be a precious opportunity where Yu Kosuge and Hisako Kawamura, both of who enjoy high acclaim mainly in Germany, performed together for the first time. Between the performances,

the two demonstrated their chemistry as fit as their piano duet by talking about the fascination of the instrument, which brought a lot of excitement to the audience.

Premium Concerts for Teens [6: Spin-off] Masato HONDA B. B. Station (jazz big band)

January 24, 2015 at Bunkyo Civic Hall



Masato Honda B. B. Station, representing jazz big bands, culminated the series as its spin-off. All members of the band are Japan's dominant super-players; while the genre was quite new to Sony Music Foundation, the concert turned out to be a very high quality show with splendid performances exerting the scale of a big band,

utilizing some comical renditions such as the featuring of a recorder.

♪ Lectures & Concerts – Navigated by concert sommelier, Satoshi ASAOKA: “A Musical Journey with the Instruments”

A project targeting classical music fans who are keen to know more about classical music and its instruments, by tracing the history of the development of each music and instrument with lectures and performances including in-depth contents.

July 19, 2014: Part 1 (cello) - Hidemi SUZUKI / Part 2 (violin): Ryo TERAOKA

July 20, 2014: Part 3 (piano) - Ikuyo NAKAMICHI / Part 4 (flute): Masahiro ARITA
at Tokyo Opera City Recital Hall



< cello >



< violin >



< piano >



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The lectures and concerts featuring period instruments, saw the recreations of the performances using the instruments from the era when the composers had been active. Held in four sessions featuring cello, violin, piano, and flute, respectively, the leading musicians of each instrument gave a lecture and a performance and fascinated music fans. More people attended the session as the series proceeded; the high quality and the fun of the concerts spread by word of mouth, making the entire event well accepted and meaningful.

**Oboe Festa: Presented by the top prize winners of
 “THE INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN in Tokyo/Karuizawa”**

All-oboe concerts presented by the oboe specialists who had catapulted into the limelight with “THE INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN” and now have international careers.

August 2, 2014 (Recital Day) at Toppan Hall

August 3, 2014 (Concerto Day) at Kioi Hall

Oboe: Yeon-Hee KWAK, Alexandre GATTET, Vilém VEVELKA, Lucas Macías NAVARRO, Ivan PODYOMOV

Piano: Kimiko IMANI, Masako EGUCHI / Harpsichord: Akiko KUWAGATA / Conductor: Takeshi OOI / Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra



From “Concerto Day”

Being the previous year of “THE 11th INTERNATIONAL OBOE COMPETITION OF JAPAN 2015 in Karuizawa”, the Oboe Festa featured the five top prize winners of the 5th to the 9th Competitions. It was a highly successful two-day, recital-and-concerto concert series, sharing a number of major oboe repertoires such as Mozart’s Concerto.



Oboe:
 Yeon-Hee KWAK
 – The 5th (1997):
 Second Prize
 (top prize winner)



Alexandre GATTET
 – The 6th (2000):
 First Prize



Vilém VEVELKA
 – The 7th (2003):
 First Prize



Lucas Macías NAVARRO
 – The 8th (2006):
 First Prize



Ivan PODYOMOV
 – The 9th (2009):
 First Prize

♪ “Concert for KIDS” the 30th Anniversary Projects

As a special project commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Foundation, we subsidized the transportation costs (= fixed performance fees nationwide) of the performers and staffs who participated in “Concert for KIDS”, a series highly popular throughout Japan, and were entrusted the planning and production of each concert. We received a number of requests from organizers from various regions, and as a result, held 14 concerts including 10 cities that hosted the series for the first time.

[Applied Concerts]

2014

August 24: Saga – Kashima City Lifelong Learning Center

August 27: Oita – iichiko Culture Center

August 30: Hokkaido – Otofuke Culture Center

September 7: Hiroshima – Mihara Performing Arts Center

October 12: Hokkaido – Higashi-Kagura-Cho Fureai Koryukan

October 13: Hokkaido – Wassamu-cho Kominkan

October 25: Hokkaido – Wakkanai Sougou Bunka Center

November 3: Hokkaido – Kitami Art Bunka Hall

November 15: Kyoto – Maizuru City Sogo Bunka Kaikan

December 14: Okinawa – Nago Civic Hall

2015

February 22: Gifu – Hida City Bunka Koryu Center

February 28: Nagano – Karuizawa Ohga Hall

March 29: Hokkaido – Nakashibetsu Sogo Bunka Kaikan



Mihara Performing Arts Center



Higashi-Kagura-Cho Fureai Koryukan



Kitami Art Bunka Hall



Maizuru City Sogo Bunka Kaikan



Nago Civic Hall



Hida City Bunka Koryu Center



Karuizawa Ohga Hall



Nakashibetsu Sogo Bunka Kaikan

In the course of 2014 through 2015, we organized and presented special concerts that were reflecting the significance of our 30th anniversary, featuring worldly renowned artists, mainly international ones. By doing so, we were able to bring joy to a large number of audience, as well as to appeal the wonder of classical music to those we had not been able to reach with our conventional projects, both of which provided us many hints of activities that we should continue or launch in the future.

Through this string of the 30th anniversary projects, we renewed our recognition of the importance of conveying the “power of music”. So that we live up to the projects that our predecessors have accumulated over the years, we are determined to continue developing projects that are further enhanced in quality and something that would make the audience happy.