

The 20th anniversary of MUSIC FESTIVAL Argerich's Meeting Point in Beppu
"MUSIC FESTIVAL Argerich's Meeting Point in Rome - for exchanges between Rome
and Oita"

Message for the Concert in Rome

Kyoko Ito, General Producer, MUSIC FESTIVAL Argerich's Meeting Point in Beppu

Oita (called "BUNGO" in old days) is the place where Japanese people performed classical music for the first time under the instruction of missionaries who came to Japan all the way from Europe approximately 460 years ago.

It was in 1994 that extraordinary pianist Martha Argerich landed on such a place Oita for the first time.

Everything might have happened when I met Martha in 1977 in Munich. After many years we planned a concert tour in Japan for the first time and one of the tour venues was here Oita. Through this connection, MUSIC FESTIVAL Argerich's Meeting Point in Beppu was born here in the land of BUNGO as the world's first music festival with the name of Argerich.

Classical music that was born in Europe has been loved and affectionately fostered in Japan for many years. And now, connected with classical music and led by Martha Argerich, the 20th anniversary Music Festival will be held in Rome this year.

I am excited as if I untie a historical picture scroll containing magnificent romance.

It is meaningful for us to realize the concert in the current chaotic social situation. Because our predecessors generously accepted the different race, culture and religion, we can now enjoy wonderful classical music in Japan and many people can make their lives rich with music serving as emotional support and one of great joys.

With the world's top performance by Martha that fully expresses great benefit classical music has, I was able to advocate the role of art in society through music with confidence. As one of the specific activities, the Pinocchio Concert project was born with the purpose of fostering children's minds through our Music Festival.

A wooden puppet grows with rich mind learning through various experiences and being nurtured by people around it. This overlaps with how humans grow.

What has been produced through the liaison with Martha will connect with the future.

Seeds planted by old European people have produced flowers.

I sincerely hope that a seed cultivated in Japan with a sense of gratitude for our predecessors will become a seed of hope for the future during the course of holding the concert in Rome and that we will be able to foster it together with you.

Kyoko Ito

Kyoko Ito is a pianist. She won third prize at the 43rd Music Competition of Japan. Ito won third prize at the Busoni International Competition in 1977. She was chosen as soloist for the performance with the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Sinopoli. Ito has performed with major Japanese orchestras including NHK Symphony Orchestra conducted by Savalish. Her performances in Europe and the US and activities in Japan were both rated highly. In 1994, she planned Argerich Chamber Music Festival with Martha Argerich. Since then, she has been active as General Producer of MUSIC FESTIVAL Argerich's Meeting Point in Beppu to create a new music culture together with Martha Argerich. Ito received the Special Prize of the Nippon Steel Music Award, the 3rd JASRAC (Japanese Society for Right of Authors, Composers and Publishers) Music Culture Award in 2016 for her distinguished achievements in educational activities through Pinocchio Concerts and art promotion activities, to name a few. She graduated from Frankfurt University of Music. Her CD of Prokofiev Classical Symphony for two pianos world premiere performance with Martha Argerich was released from EMI. Ito is currently Vice Chairperson of Argerich Arts Foundation and Producer of Shiiki presents Argerich's Haus.