

Press Release February 5, 2014



TOKYO PHILHARMONIC TO MAKE THAILAND DEBUT AS PART OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY WORLD TOUR



Photo by Takashi Iijima



Photo by K. Miura

Concert Conducted by Eiji Oue, Sunday, March 23, 2014
at Prince Mahidol Hall, Mahidol University to Take Place on
Third Anniversary of 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan

Pronunciation Guide: Eiji Oue = A-jee OO-way

The Tokyo Philharmonic has the longest history and tradition of any orchestra in Japan, having been originally established in Nagoya in 1911. As plans were being made for its centenary celebrations in 2011, a devastating earthquake and tsunami struck east Japan, challenging the nation with an unprecedented crisis. The orchestra's centenary plans were scuttled, as an entire culture adjusted to a solemn new reality.

A cherished dream of the Tokyo Philharmonic will finally come true, with a 100th anniversary world tour that will encompass six countries on three continents. Internationally renowned Japanese conductor Eiji Oue will lead the orchestra for the tour. The first concert – Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 7:30 PM at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in New York City – will mark the U.S. debut of the orchestra, as well as the third anniversary (to the day) of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

After New York, the Tokyo Philharmonic will appear in Madrid, Paris, London, Singapore and Bangkok.

“We are delighted to realize this world tour as the culmination of our 100th anniversary celebrations,” says Ayuko Matsuda, Director of Public Relations for the orchestra. “For us, it is a significant step, as the sole Japanese orchestra marking the start of its second century. We are proud to represent our country, and hope to inspire the world with 21st-century Japonism.”

Hiroshi Mikitani, Founder and CEO of Rakuten, Presenting Sponsor of the world tour, and Chairman of the Tokyo Philharmonic, states: “Music can touch your heart beyond race or nationality; it is the only truly global language. An orchestra is most empowered to shoulder this social responsibility. As the celebration of 100 years of touching hearts in Japan, we are extremely proud to bring the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra’s dialect of the global language to the world.”

TOKYO PHILHARMONIC

Eiji Oue, conductor

Kyoko Takezawa, violin

Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 4:00 PM
Prince Mahidol Hall, Mahidol University

Program

Toshiro Mayuzumi (1929-97)
Bugaku

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky(1840-1893)
Violin Concerto in D major, op.35
Violin: Kyoko Takezawa

Sergei Prokofiev(1891 1953)
Romeo and Juliet (excerpts)

Leonard Bernstein (1918–90)
Symphonic Dances from West Side Story

The Tokyo Philharmonic 100th Anniversary World Tour is made possible by
Rakuten (Presenting Sponsor)
The Agency for Cultural Affairs (Principal Sponsor)
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We would like to show our most heartfelt gratitude to the following
generous sponsors for the Thailand Debut:
Yamaha, Toyota, Thai Beverage, Stock Exchange of Thailand, Siam Cement Group



About the Tokyo Philharmonic

The Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra has the longest history and tradition of any orchestra in Japan, having been originally established in Nagoya in 1911. After moving to Tokyo in 1938 the orchestra played a pivotal role in bringing authentic opera to the Japanese public under Chief Conductor Manfred Gurlitt. After the war, the orchestra became a fully independent organization and changed its name to the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra (TPO), focusing on subscription concerts, opera and ballet while also pursuing a regular broadcasting program with NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation). It is currently the largest orchestra in Japan, with more than 130 members. TPO is proud to have Dan Ettinger as Chief Conductor, Myung-Whun Chung as Honorary Conductor Laureate, Tadaaki Otaka and Kazushi Ono as Conductors Laureate, and Vladimir Fedoseyev as Principal Guest Conductor.

The Tokyo Philharmonic performs regularly at Tokyo's distinguished Suntory and Orchard Halls and at Tokyo Opera City, where it is based. The orchestra has received many awards and honors, including the Ongaku No Tomo Sha Prize (1984), the Agency for Cultural Affairs' Art Festival Prize (1986) and Art Festival Grand Prize (1995). The orchestra has been designated as one of the organizations for the Agency for Cultural Affairs' Special Program for Artistic Creativity. In 1997 it became the regular orchestra at Tokyo's New National Theatre. The orchestra often performs outside of Tokyo and engages in regional cultural exchange and education programs. Internationally, this will be the Tokyo Philharmonic's fourth European tour, as well as its first appearance in the United States.

<http://www.tpo.or.jp/en/>

About Eiji Oue

Eiji Oue is Conductor Laureate of the Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra, having served as Music Director from 2003-2011, and Conductor Laureate of the NDR Radio Philharmonic Orchestra Hannover, following eleven years as its Music Director (1998-2009). He has also held the positions of Music Director of Pennsylvania's Erie Philharmonic Orchestra (1991-1995), Music Director of the Minnesota Orchestra (1995-2002), and Music Director of the Orquesta Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya (Barcelona Symphony Orchestra) (2006-2010). He was Music Director of the Grand Teton Music Festival in Wyoming from 1997 to 2003.

Maestro Oue has guest conducted throughout North America, working with such prestigious orchestras as the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic and the symphony orchestras of Detroit, Saint Louis, Montreal and Toronto. His summer engagements in the U.S. have included appearances at the Ravinia, Tanglewood, Grant Park, Wolf Trap, Round Top and Midland music festivals. In Europe he has conducted the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, the symphony orchestra of the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, the Oslo Philharmonic, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, National Orchestra of Spain, Swedish Radio Symphony, Munich Philharmonic, and the orchestras of the Deutsche Oper Berlin and WDR Cologne. In 2005 he made his debut at the Bayreuth Festival conducting *Tristan und Isolde*.

Born in Japan, Eiji Oue began his musical studies at the age of four. At 15, he entered the Toho Gakuen School of Music as a performance major, beginning his conducting studies that same year with Hideo Saito, the teacher of Seiji Ozawa. In 1978 he was invited by Ozawa to spend the summer studying at the Tanglewood Music Center. There he met Leonard

Bernstein, who became his mentor and colleague, sharing the podium during three international tours with concerts in La Scala, Vienna State Opera, Opera de Paris-Bastille and in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Berlin, Rome and other musical capitals. In 1990 he assisted Bernstein in the creation of the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan, serving as resident conductor for the Festival Orchestra.

About Kyoko Takezawa

Emotional power, musical sensitivity flawless technique and a tone remarkable for its haunting beauty are the qualities that have established Kyoko Takezawa as one of the foremost violin virtuoso of her generation. Her musicianship and virtuosity have made her a commanding presence on the world's concert platforms.

Takezawa has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras, including New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Montreal Orchestra, London Symphony, Dresden Staatskapelle, Leipzig Gewandhaus, and NHK Symphony. She has collaborated with the most distinguished conductors, including Seiji Ozawa, Kent Nagano, Sir Colin Davis, Michael Tilson Thomas, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Kurt Masur, Sir Neville Marriner, Leonard Slatkin, Charles Dutoit, Sir Andrew Davis, and Tadaaki Otaka. In addition, she has been invited to the outstanding international festivals, such as those in Aspen, La Jolla, and Lucerne.

Takezawa's chamber music performances have also drawn high praises. As co-director of the Suntory Hall Festival Soloists of Suntory Hall in Tokyo, she has collaborated with Isaac Stern, Yo-Yo Ma, Wolfgang Sawallisch (as pianist), Josef Suk and other distinguished artists. In 2007, Takezawa started 3-year-continuous recital series for celebrating her 20th anniversary since her debut.

In 2009, her concerts have included a tour of the complete Brahms Violin Sonatas tour in Japan to celebrate the 20th anniversary of her performing career. In January 2010, Takezawa's performance of the Berg Violin Concerto with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for their subscription concerts was widely praised, with one critic saying she "understood throughout the deeply inward and personal nature of the piece. She should come back soon." She plays on the Antonio Stradivarius "Viotti" (1704), provided on loan by the Nonprofit Organization Yellow Angel.

About Prince Mahidol Hall



To build a grand hall that would be the proper venue for the graduation ceremony has been a long awaited project for Mahidol University since its first two presidents: Prof. Chatchawan Osathanonda, M.D. and Prof. Kasan Jatikavanich, M.D. However, budget constraints at that time put the project on hold as precedence was given to providing higher education and funding research.

It had not been until 2006, during the presidency of Prof. Em. Pornchai Matangkasombut, that the idea began to materialize when the government allocated 990 million baht to match the equal amount from the university to finance it.

A new plan proposed by Prof. Em. Pornchai and approved by the University Council integrated more functions into the original project. The new building would have multiple purposes; it could accommodate a full symphony orchestra, operas, national and international conferences.

To achieve a building design that stands out and reflects its history, the university sought consultation from three well-respected figures in traditional and modern Thai architecture, namely Amnuay Suwankiri, Pichai Vasanasong and AVM Arwut Ngerchuklin, and opened design competition for the project, which attracted entries from more than 10 architecture firms.

The winning design by Architects 49 Co.,Ltd. features design concepts that incorporate natural forms and traditional Thai architectural features. From the air the building is in the shape of Kan Phai flower, the floral emblem of Mahidol University. The pattern on its roof resembles the skeletal framework of human body, symbolizing the advancement of medical knowledge which inspired the birth

of the university.

This concert hall -cum- convention center is built on a plot of 54 rai or 21.3 Acres, on the university's Salaya campus. Its unique design will impress visitors at first sight. State-of-the-art light and sound system and stage engineering supported by consulting firms from Britain, France and Germany make the building one of the most advanced concert halls in Asia.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn laid the foundation stone of the building on June 26, 2009 and named it Mahidol Sitthakarn, which means the building symbolizing the success of Mahidol University. The facility is called Prince Mahidol Hall in English.

Upon the construction being successfully completed, Prince Mahidol Hall held Soft Opening Concerts featuring the New Year's Concert 2014 by The Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra on January 10-11, 2014.