

Comment from Ms. Argerich

At the Katowice ceremony in October 2015, Ms. Argerich made the following remarks:

“In receiving the honor today, I believe it would add weight to a common dream that my daughter Annie Dutoit, my dear friend Shoji Sato (secretary to Ms. Argerich, Peace & Music Ambassador of Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra) and myself share. It is a dream we felt when we took part in an original event called Music for Peace, which took place in Hiroshima in August 2015 on the 70th anniversary of the atrocities caused by the atomic bombing. We are now here geographically so close to a place that embodies the tragedy and enormous sufferings of humanity, that is Auschwitz. It is essential to keep memory alive, and I believe that music can be a powerful inspiration to achieve this.”

An interview with Mr. Shimono

- Highlights of the concert

Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, which is a work of mainstream classical music, will be conducted by Christian Arming and it will be much interesting to see how a Beethoven piece pans out under the baton of the Vienna native. I consider Beethoven an ancestor of rock 'n' roll. His music was avant-garde in his times and this one is pretty upbeat. The quiet ambience of the second movement may also evoke a sense of ephemeral beauty.

- His thoughts on Beethoven

I think he was a composer who brought down music from a certain class of people to all walks of life regardless of social standing and race, subverting its somewhat condescending authority to please every one of us.

- How attractive the orchestra is

I am sure they will get hotter and hotter when they perform at the concert. I guess they are a high-octane orchestra and I have expectations that they will put up an exuberant, heated performance together with Christian Arming.

- His thoughts on Ms. Argerich

As I grew up listening to her recordings since long time ago, I feel really honored to know that such a great person is caring for Hiroshima. The fact that such a world-famous person is caring for Hiroshima in a true sense is like a part of Hiroshima's destiny. I mean Hiroshima's aspiration as a city that sincerely prays for peace is spreading to be recognized further around the world through Ms. Argerich. This really

helps us and I thank her from the bottom of my heart.

- What music can particularly do for peace

Musicians have the nerve to say they can do something “with music,” but these days I am beginning to realize deep down that it is not that easy. Still I do believe that music has a certain power. Not only classical music but also rock, jazz, popular songs and “enka (Japanese traditional ballads).” Regardless of genres, I take it upon myself to try and cheer up all kinds of people with the music they love and provide them with good music when necessary.

The “Music for Peace” project is proceeding toward the year 2020. The orchestra makes arrangements that also help people, who do not usually listen to classical music very much, enjoy themselves. There may be more chances when Ms. Argerich comes onstage. The orchestra hopes to deliver wonderful performances to everyone through these activities and continue to participate in them in an effort to make music one of contributions to peace, more than anything else.