



MINATO

みなとユネスコ 会報

Bulletin

MINATO UNESCO ASSOCIATION NEWS & CALENDAR

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No. 170: March 1, 2023

Let us be well prepared for daily safety and security

ISHII Yoshiaki, Standing Director of MUA
(Former Chief of Fire Suppression Division, Tokyo Fire Department)



I have been promoting local-community fire & disaster prevention activities, drawing on years of my professional experiences in fire prevention. Such activities include disaster prevention workshops for pupils in local elementary schools. I provide these children with lectures, quiz and hands-on fire-fighting skills, thereby promoting their awareness and required action against disasters.

At the beginning of such workshops for children, I talk about the traditionally shared fears in Japan, in the order of “earthquakes, thunders, fires, and “OYAJI” (short-tempered fathers). Children understand the scariness of top three. Here I explain that there used to be elderly men at home or in the neighborhood who were called stubborn or thunderous guys, and that children were scared of these old men. Then I ask children, “Are you scared of your father?” Most of them answer No. It seems children today are more scared of their mothers.

“OYAJI” originally meant strong winds, not fathers or old men. When elementary pupils learn this from my explanation, they are surprised. People feared earthquakes, thunders or fires because these disasters destroy precious human lives, assets or livelihood at a single stroke.

Last year a total of about 4,000 fires broke out in Tokyo (excluding Inagi City and islands). The top three causes were in the order of arson (including suspected ones), cigarettes, and small kitchen ranges. From this fact, we can learn that we should take preventive actions against fires in our daily life. For example, to avoid arson, we should not place outside flammable garbage on the eve of designated collection dates. Also, we should not leave small kitchen ranges alone, even temporarily, where they are being used to cook tempura, etc.

Earthquakes, the top fear, occur frequently in different regions of Japan. Typhoons and intensive rainfalls have hit Japan more frequently than before, due most likely to the global warming. When typhoons or heavy rainfalls hit your community, the residents, especially those who live in condos, should remove items on veranda into rooms or fix such items firmly, as a preventive measure against possible physical damages.

Let's turn our eyes to emergency rescues in daily life. Last year, a total of 744,000 emergency rescues were recorded in Tokyo. This translates into one incident per every 42 seconds or 2,038 per day. The possibility to save injured persons in cardiopulmonary arrest is 75% when attended within one minute, 50% within two minutes, and down to 25% within three minutes. Meantime, statistics show that it takes an average of 7 minutes & 20 seconds before an ambulance arrives at the location of injured persons.

(To be continued on P. 9)

Minato UNESCO Salon for SDGs
The UK and Japan: Similarities and Differences
Instructor: Sarah Emily Harrison

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 18:30~

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center, #305

By recommendation of Mr. Tanabe, President of MUA, Sarah-san took part in the Japanese Speech Contest last December (2022). Her speech was so impressive that the MUA members wanted to hear what she has to say.



Introduction: “Japan and the UK both have long and rich histories and share the same geographical feature as island nations. However, there are also many differences. By focusing on food, architecture and education, I’d like to compare differences and explore the reasons behind them.”

(1) Food: “Fish and chips” and “roast beef” are two of the most famous British dishes. Others include “Sunday roast,” “full English breakfast,” “bangers and mash,” “pastie” and “steak and kidney pie.” Summer in Britain is “mild and dry”, while that of Japan is “hot and humid”, which is an ideal environment for the growth of healthy, edible bacteria. Britain is on 55.3 degrees latitude, and Japan on 36.2 degrees latitude. This geographical disparity and different summer temperatures have shaped our farming techniques and contributed to a difference in diet.

- Staple Food: Potatoes, bread and pastry in Britain. Rice in Japan.
- Fermented Food: Beer, bread and blue cheese are among the few fermented foods in Britain. Japan boasts a variety of fermented food such as soy sauce, miso and Japanese pickles.
- Fish is rarely eaten in Britain. Why is “fish and chips” the only famous fish dish in the UK?
 1. “Henry VII and Beef Eaters” : Henry VII, a king of England in the late 1400’s, let his guards eat “beef as much as they liked” after the Sunday church service. Royal Guards were widely known as Beef Eaters, and “Roast Beef on Sunday” has thus become a tradition.
 2. “Henry VIII’s break with the Catholic Church”: In the 1500’s, England broke with Rome and became Protestant. Since Catholic believers used to eat “fish” every Friday and the catholic symbol was fish, fish were regarded as “too catholic” and historically avoided.
 3. England has the North Sea and other fertile fishing grounds. However, due to the demand for its high quality fish across Europe, it is more profitable to export the fish rather than keep them in the domestic market. Exporting quality fish to France and Spain is a good way to gain foreign currency.

Why is it that traditional Japanese cooking use more fish and less meat? Popular belief was that

1. If you eat animals who help with farming, it is as if you are killing your labor force.
2. Buddhism was introduced to Japan, which teaches that humans may be reincarnated into animals. By eating animals, you may accidentally eat your own ancestors! The principle of Buddhism, which respects all living things, has contributed significantly to Japanese culture. Eating meat was prohibited for about 1,000 years, starting from 675, the year of Emperor Tenmu, all the way to the Meiji Era. If you ate goat, wolf, hare, raccoon dog, pig, deer or cow, you had to show repentance before offering a prayer at the shrine.

While differences in food are largely caused by climatic conditions, philosophy and religion have also played a significant role. Let us look into differences in the sense of beauty.

- (2) Architecture: Canterbury Cathedral, Buckingham Palace and St. Paul's Cathedral are some of the most famous buildings in the UK. Durham Cathedral in the town where I went to university, the residence of the Lyme Park, and Manchester Town Hall are some examples from my personal life.

Japan: Building materials are chosen in consideration of seismic effects, and wooden houses are suitable for humid weather. Roofs are shaped to provide shelter from the rain.

- Colour: In Japan, shrines are often painted bright red (as we can see from Sensoji and Itsukushima Shrine). This is because the colour red is believed to drive away evil spirits. However, in the UK, red is negatively associated with hell and Satan. Buildings usually use natural stone colours.
- Height: Britain/ In Christian teaching, God exists above us in a high, transcendent position. Therefore, the higher the tower, the stronger the power of the church. Japan/ The basic belief of Shinto is that spirits inhabit nature and all earthly creatures. In Buddhism, Buddha Amidas and Bodhisattvas do not exist in a different realm, but here in the same realm as us. Since climbing up to paradise in heaven is not the believers' goal, temples and shrines don't have to be tall.
- Light: Britain/ A lot of light comes in through the large, elongated windows. Light represents heaven and divine knowledge. Japan/ A window at Meigetsu-in Temple is aimed at showing the scenery. While appreciating what nature has to offer in each season, visitors are inspired to think about Buddhist concepts such as impermanence and change.
- Size, form and design: Britain/ Architects strive for grandeur, symmetry and perfection, taking over design ideas of ancient Greeks. In other words, they have strong interest in mathematics. "Architecture should have logically perfect symmetry and proportions." They identify perfection with God, and architecture was one of the ways to get closer to paradise. St. Paul's Cathedral and British Museum are good examples. Japan/ Japanese architects also value symmetry. But they attach higher value to humbleness, and avoid perfection and grandeur according to Buddhist teaching. The most important design ideas are Wabi and Sabi. Imperfection is something not only acceptable, but desirable.
- Sense of beauty displayed in garden design: Britain/ During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, geometrically-designed symmetric gardens became popular. This implies the desire to transcend nature. Japan/ Since gardens were meant to copy nature in the beginning, they were designed asymmetrically. Plants, sand and rocks were arranged to symbolize something sacred and pure, thereby inviting the gods. They also represent "nothingness" and "passing of time".

In the Meiji period, Japan imported many things including railroads and the political system from the UK. After World War II, however, the country was largely influenced by the United States. One example is the education system.

- (3) Education system: Britain/ Secondary School (5 years) is followed by Sixth Form (for pupils ages 16 to 18), where students choose four subjects. (Sarah-san took up literature, history, philosophy and theology.) "Early specialization could help students to prepare for university. On the other hand, students may regret the loss of the subjects they did not choose." The United States/ Middle or junior school for pupils ages 11-14, high school for those ages 15-18. Britain and Japan share one thing in common: "school uniform".
- Obtaining a bachelor's degree: Britain/ 3 years. If you fail the exam, you cannot take a makeup examination. Japan and the US/ 4 years. Even if you fail a class, you may repeat the year.
 - University education system: Britain/ Study only the specialist subject from the first year. Japan and the US/ Can study other fields for two years. Sarah-san was happy as she could study not only philosophy but history, sociology and Japanese language as well while she was at university in Japan.

- University tuition for one year: Britain/ All universities are state-run, with the upper limit set at £9,000 (¥1,470,000). All British students apply for the government loan that covers academic fees and living expenses. The loan has an advantage: its repayment scheme is determined according to income. The U.S/ Harvard University (private) \$54,000 (¥7,270,000), University of California, Berkeley (national) (\$44,000) (\$14,000 for local residents). Japan/ Keio University (private) (¥980,000), The University of Tokyo (national) (¥530,000).

Conclusion: “I have explained differences of the UK and Japan by focusing on food, sense of beauty and education system. By referring to specific examples, I have investigated the reasons for these cultural differences and found that some of them were caused by factors of “climate”, as well as “philosophy and religion”. In this globalizing world, the philosophical ideas of our countries seem to increasingly resemble each other. On top of that, the number of religious believers is declining. Will our culture also reflect these trends in the future?”



(Written by Kobayashi Takayuki, Vice President. Translated by Miyashita Yukari, Standing Director.)

Tea Ceremony Workshop

Saturday, September 24, 2022

Venue: Minato City Life -long Learning Center

Fortunately, we had good weather on the day though we had been worried about the typhoon. We had a total of 17 attendees, including non-Japanese.

In Japan, September represents a season of chrysanthemum. Although the day of “Choyo-no-sekku,” one of the five important seasonal days, was already over, we selected a flower-shaped sweet called “kise-nishiki” (left photo) related to the said festivity date.



During the workshop, many interesting questions were raised from attendees, concerning appropriate kimono to wear, suitable “Obi” belt, manners to observe in a tea room, decent behavior during the tea ceremony, etc. The workshop was over before we knew it.

(Written by KASAHARA M., Standing Director, the Hands-on Cultural Workshop Committee, and translated by KODAMA Y., the PR & Internet Committee)

MUA Extraordinary General Meeting in September 2022

Date: Friday, Sept. 16, 2022

Venue: Minato Life-long Learning Center

The subject meeting was held to discuss the following two agenda. Both agenda were approved by unanimous positive votes.

Agenda 1. Revision of Article 9 “Category of Members”

Major points of revision are as follows:

1. A new membership category shall be provided to facilitate new membership in corporate and other member categories, in an effort to increase the revenues of membership fee by increasing such members. The membership fee for the said category shall be ¥10,000. The traditional definition of supporting member shall be revised to accommodate “Individual and corporations who join and support MUA by endorsing its objectives,” and who shall not have voting rights as granted to ordinary supporting members.
2. Meantime, the fee for ordinary supporting members shall be revised to double of an individual member’s fee, based on the traditional intention. Those members, who undertake the roles of Acting Directors or similar positions, used to pay a supporting member’s fee of ¥10,000 at their own will.
3. The traditional family member shall be divided into an individual and its family category. While the individual shall pay a single basic fee, its family shall pay ¥3,000.
4. Students or foreigner members shall be exempted from membership fee, based on MUA’s intentional efforts to increase youngers members and foster diversity.

“Category of Membership”

Article 9. Membership category and respective annual fee shall be as defined below:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| (1) Individual member (who joined MUA by endorsing its objective) | ¥5,000 (1 unit) or higher |
| (2) Family member (one or more family members of the individual who joined MUA by endorsing its objective) | ¥3,000 |
| (3) Youth member (age 31 or younger member who joined MUA by endorsing its objective) | ¥2,000 (1 unit) or higher |
| (4) Corporate member (which joined MUA by endorsing its objective) | ¥20,000 (1 unit) or higher |
| (5) Supporting organization member (cultural or socio-educational organizations which joined MUA by endorsing its objective) | ¥5,000 (1 unit) or higher |
| (6) Supporting member (individual or organization who joined MUA by endorsing its objective, and who will provide support) | ¥10,000 |
| (7) Student member (who joined MUA by endorsing its objective) | Free of charge |
| (8) Foreigner member (who joined MUA by endorsing its objective) | Free of charge |

Agenda 2. Partial revision of the MUA board members

Mr. SHIMIZU Gunji, who retired as Director at the end of last fiscal year, was re-elected as Director on September 16, 2022 by MUA’s resolution.

(Written by Shimpuku A., Secretary General, and translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

Hands-on Cultural Workshop on Japanese Calligraphy

Date: Saturday, October 1, 2022

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

We had a total of 20 attendees to this workshop. Our objective was to promote the understanding of Japanese culture through hands-on experience in calligraphy, one of the typical traditional Japanese culture, and to foster friendship among Japanese and non-Japanese participants. As usual, the instructor was Ms. Kanada Suimu, a member of the Mainichi Shodo Association

Contents:

- Mini lecture on the history of calligraphy and tools
- Exercise of writing different characters, copying the model written characters
- After a favorite character was written on the Shikishi square cardboard, a final marking of “Shuin” was stamped, chosen from the characters of “Kotobuki,” “Kisshou” or “Yume.”

Among the attendees were pre-school children, elementary school lower-grades pupils as well as those who have practiced calligraphy before. All of them took satisfaction in what they accomplished after intensive exercises in the workshop.

Comment from MUA staff:

At the beginning of exercise, the attendees looked clumsy with writing brushes. However, as they repeated exercises, they seemed to increasingly have a pleasure in writing characters. When they were choosing a favorite character to write on the Shikishi, they seemed to be considering carefully if the chosen character would fit the environment where the cardboard would be placed at home. We were very happy to see our objectives fulfilled in this workshop.



(Written by TAGAWA J., Standing Director, the Hands-on Cultural Workshop Committee, and translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

Let's Make Postcards with Original Drawing Pens!

Date: Saturday, October 8, 2022
Minato City Life-long Learning Center

We had the pleasure of having Ms. SUZUKI Mikiko as the instructor, along with three assistants, for this children's workshop. They were from a company called Okamotoya, a stationary company established in Minato City in 1921. We had a total of 16 attendees, most of them children at age 5 or older. At each session, the teaching team paid a close attention to children, provided elaborate explanations and demonstrations.

Sessions: Initially, three colors were selected from among different colors used for fountain pens. With these colors, children prepared three kinds of pens. Using these pens, they made postcards of their own taste.

Comments from MUA staff: Children blended different colors, made fountain pens and made their own postcard using the pens. They looked around to decide what to draw, talked with other kids, and seemed to be enjoying every minute of the activities. Due to the persistent pandemic, it must have been very difficult to find opportunities to interact with children who study at different schools. Therefore, this workshop seemed to offer an extraordinary enjoyable time for all of the children who attended.



(Written by TAGAWA J., Standing Director, the Hands-on Cultural Workshop Committee, and translated by KODAMA Y., the PR & Internet Committee)

World Cooking Workshop Home dishes of South Korea

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2022

Venue: Minato Gender Equality Center Libra



Our in-person cooking workshop has been suspended for two years due to the pandemic. We were pleased to hold this workshop, inviting Ms. KIM INA as our instructor. KIM-sensei is originally from Seoul, South Korea and came to Japan 22 years ago with her pastor husband. She teaches Korean and Hand Bell at different classes. She is an “Omoni” or mother of the couple’s two children, along with two adopted children.

At first, KIM-sensei gave a brief lecture on the Korean cooking which is diversified according to different regions.

The day’s menu, shown below, represents tastes in Seoul.:

- ① Gimbap: Recently we see this in the side-dish corner of supermarkets. This is Korean seaweed-wrapped rice, seasoned with sesame oil or roasted sesame instead of vinegar
- ② Korean Oden Soup: Various ingredients are typically pierced with long skewers. This oden is simmered with other vegetables in hondashi or shirodashi soy sauce.
- ③ Japchae: Stir-fry gelatin noodles, which is called Chines noodles in Korea, mixed with beef and vegetables. Season it with soy sauce, sesame oil, a bit of sugar, and pepper.
- ④ Korean pancakes for New Year (3 kinds): This item became familiar to us because the pancake flour is on the market. Vegetables such as eryngii mushrooms and zucchini, mixed with minced meat and tofu are coated with powdered egg and grilled.
- ⑤ Schisandra tea: Kim-sensei brought this tea for us. Each kind has pleasant color and, more than anything else, it’s healthy.

A total of 24 attendees enjoyed the amicable atmosphere throughout the workshop. We could re-convince ourselves that we can override the reported national conflicts by learning the culture and cooking tradition of foreign countries under the UNESCO spirit.



Clockwise from top left: ③, ④, ②, ⑤ & ①



Kim-sensei & MUA staff

(Written by MATSUZAKI K., Standing Director, the World Cooking Committee, and Translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

Minato Citizens Festival

Date & Time: Sat., Oct. 8, 2022 11:00 to 17:00

Sun., Oct. 9, 2022 10:00 to 16:00

Venue: Minato City Shiba-Park

The Minato Citizens Festival has been suspended for a few years due to the pandemic. We felt the signs of autumn in Shiba Park on the Festival dates although it rained on Friday. Designated entrance & exit gates were provided and eating & drinking spaces were regulated to prevent COVID 19 infection. A total of about 200,000 people visited during the two-day event.

The Minato UNESCO Association set up a tent to introduce extensive activities promoted by each committee, for new member recruitments, and also held a mini bazaar. We actively reached out to visitors to our tent, instead of just sitting still beside erected publicity panels.

At the mini bazaar, it was fun to notice what kind of items people are interested in, and to know that different items sell well depending on Saturday or Sunday and the hour of day. There was a 5~6 year-old girl who found a mirror with a cute character on it. She wanted to get it. Her mother told the girl to purchase it from her own allowance. Thus, the girl paid 100 yen from her pretty purse. In addition, she bought a wooden small toy for her little brother in the stroller. It was a lovely scene to see for all of us.

We had similar wonderful experiences during the two days. We would like express our appreciation to everyone who either donated valuable goods, or cooperated with transportation, tent setting, or bazaar sales.



(Written by ISOBE T., VP & Chairperson, the Minato Citizens Festival Committee, and translated by KODAMA Y., the PR & Internet Committee)

(Continued from P. 1) : Let us be well prepared for daily safety and security

Therefore, life or death depends on how quickly people, who attend the injured persons, can provide first aid, including heart massage and artificial respiration. If you have acquired a first aid skill, you can be a life saver for any of your precious family members who suddenly falls into cardiopulmonary arrest. I strongly recommend our readers to take a first aid course.

Our daily life is supported by extensive safety and security systems. It is important for each of us to be well prepared to protect our lives and assets from possible natural disasters and emergency accidents.

(Translated by TANAHASHI S., the PR & Internet Committee)

The Second 2022 Cross-cultural Awareness Workshop Feel the Charm of Italian Opera

Lecturers: Mr. WATANABE Dai, Opera Singer and Mrs. WATABABE Yuriko, Pianist

Date: October 29, 2022 14:00~16:00

Venue: Minato City LIBRA Hall

At the beginning, there was an opening address by the former MUA President NAGANO and an introduction to UNESCO activities, followed by an introduction of the lecturers. After studying at Meiji University, Mr. WATANABE graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts and completed the opera course at the same graduate school. He aggressively conducts wide range of activities such as appearing in numerous operas, playing as a soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony or leading roles in operas at the New National Theatre

His wife, WATANABE Yuriko, is active as a pianist in various fields, and this time not only accompanied her husband, but also provided commentary during the lecture.

Lecturer WATANABE entered the stage singing "Kanpai no Uta" from Verdi's "La Traviata" (1853). (Originally duet and part of the song was excerpted during the lecture.) When the lecturer asked at the beginning if anyone has ever seen the whole opera, quite a few people raised their hands.

"What is opera?"

Opera is a comprehensive art that combines drama and music. In big theaters, microphones are sometimes used, but unlike musicals, live voice is delivered to the audience. Depending on the pitch and weight of the voice, the role is also determined. The soprano and mezzo-soprano that are high voices often play the role of the main characters, while the deep alto voices play that of old women or maid. A tenor with a high male voice is a star player. However, as it is said that when the tenor fails, the opera as a whole is deemed to be a failure, I as a tenor singer feel a lot of pressure. The midrange baritone plays a variety of roles such as bad men or handsome men and very popular with women. A bass with a low voice plays the role of an important person or an elderly person. Light tenor voice is assigned to a young prince. Vocalization has changed as well. From the era when countertenors were the mainstream, it shifted to bel canto vocalization with the introduction of orchestra. As seen in the works of Verdi and Puccini voice became louder with the modern bel canto vocalization as the orchestra plays thicker role (as I call it). The people involved in opera are not only the singers, choruses, and orchestras, but also the directors (there exists staging that even exchanges the era), the stage design, lighting, costume design, stage manager, make-up artist, hair dresser, costumes, assistant conductors, etc. Music staffs belong to the theater in foreign countries, but there is only one theater for opera in Japan, the New National Theatre. Lyrics of opera are made of poetry and are verses. It creates rhythm. The stage setting of "Aida" is massive and, therefore, it can only be performed at a large theater. Quite expensive costumes are used in "La Traviata". Audiences are drawn into an extraordinary world by such settings.



"Beginning of Opera"

Opera began in Florence in the sixteenth-century. It aimed to revive the Greek tragedy. In early days, a singer sang a single song. Monteverdi of Venice appeared and evolved the form of opera.

"Baroque Era"

Baroque means "distorted pearl". The castrato, which castrated male singers produce high notes, played an active role. In the era of absolute monarchy, opera seria took up serious themes. The operas honoring the king were especially big deal and very costly. Recitativo which is sung like you speak and advances the story in front of the aria (solo) became to be utilized.

♪ "Ombra Mai Fu: Gentle Shade" from Handel's "Serse" (1737-38)

"Mozart Age"



"Don Giovanni" was first performed in 1787. Around that time, the comedy called opera buffa became popular with the rise of citizens. With this, you don't need a large cast like the story of the king, and it doesn't cost money. Script writers appeared and Da Ponte's trilogy ("The Marriage of Figaro" etc.) was produced. (Lecturer WATANABE Yuriko's comment: Around 1500, when opera was born, there was no major key nor minor. Gregorian chant was made up of musical modes. When major and minor keys appeared, it becomes easier to create chords and accompaniment. Mozart composed 626 of

his works in his short life and most is a major key. Although minor keys are sometimes used like in the overture of "Don Giovanni", there are only 19 works that were in minor key. Those were concentrated around 1787 when his father Leopold died. Mozart inextricably linked the orchestra to the opera. As the music score was written as if it was intended for an instrument, it was very troublesome to sing.

♪ "Her Peace of Mind" from Mozart's "Don Giovanni" Revised in 1788 Vienna Edition

"The Age of Bel Canto Opera"

In the first half of the 19th century, the bel canto vocal technique advanced in Paris. Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, etc. played an active part. With the simple orchestral accompaniment, a finely rolling vocalization called Agilita came out. A technique called "Rossini Crescendo", in which similar phrases are used to gradually increase and swell is characteristic.

♪ "Unknown Tears" from Donizetti's "L'elisir d'amore" (1832)

"Long live Verdi"

In the latter half of the 19th century, the unification movement began in Italy, which was nothing more than a collection of disjointed city-states, and Verdi composed "Go, my thoughts, on golden wings" from "Nabucco" is said to be Italy's second national anthem and every one of Italian people can sing this song. It expresses the passion for the homeland. Wagner is the same age as Verdi. His works are characterized by the magnificent orchestra that creates continuous, uninterrupted music.

When it comes to Verdi and Wagner's operas, not only loud voices but also frequencies are used so as not to lose to the orchestra.

(Lecturer WATANABE Yuriko) Verdi evolved the orchestra into an opera that integrates the orchestra with the singing rather than the accompaniment.

♪ "Go, my thoughts, on golden wings" from Verdi's "Nabucco" (1842)

"The Age of Verismo Opera"

Stories of common people such as killing each other became the subject. The music becomes more passionate and the vocalization becomes more dramatic. "Put on your clothes" of "Jester" is composed by Leoncavallo. It is used effectively in Al Capone's scene of the movie "Untouchable". In the movie "The Godfather Part 3", Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" was used.

♪ Leoncavallo "Put on your clothes" from "Jester" (1892)

"Melody Magician Puccini"

Puccini composed a number of hit operas, including "Tosca", "Madame Butterfly" and "La Bohème".

(Lecturer WATANABE Yuriko) The orchestra is devoted to the accompaniment. However, as Puccini has the orchestra in unison with the melody of the song, it's hard for a singer. Puccini and Wagner used a technique called leitmotif. The leitmotif is to repeatedly play the same melody as used in the movie "Star Wars" when Darth Vader appears.

♪ "No one should sleep" from Puccini "Turandot" 1892

"Later Italian Opera"

After World War I, Italian opera began to die out. When movies became popular, the sale of opera was said to become one third of the movie. But Italian music lives on in movies and musicals. Nino Rota's "Romeo and Juliet" is famous.

♪ Morricone "Love Theme" from the movie "New Cinema Paradise"

Questions and Answers after the Lecture

Q: How can I overcome language problems such as foreign languages?

A: In the first place, in opera, there is a drawback that it is difficult to hear high notes as words. That's why subtitles are used. Even in Japanese opera, the opera "KAMIKAZE ~Kamikaze~" composed by SAEGUSA Shigeaki, in which I performed, has Japanese subtitles. It is possible to concentrate on the stage even while watching the subtitles and understand the content well. If you go through synopsis in advance, each scene and development will be easier to understand, and you can enjoy watching more.

Q: I'm 80 years old and learning opera. Is it okay to lower the pitch and sing if it doesn't match my vocal range at a recital?

A: It is okay to transpose songs. However, if you do it in opera, the orchestral score has to transpose in its entirety as well. Also, if the range changes, the melody changes and the character may be altered. I think the teacher may well stick to the original tone. However, that is mainly for the cases of public performances, etc. As an individual, I think you can adjust the pitch, and thereby, you may enjoy singing opera.



(Written by YAMADA Yuko, the International Science & Culture Committee, and translated by SUDA Yasushi, the PR & Internet Committee Associate)

FestiBalloon

Date&Time: Fri. Oct. 21, 2022 11:00 to 20:00

Venue: Minato City Life-long Learning Center

This year the Minato UNESCO Association participated in the events held on the ground and introduced the activities of its different committees. In addition, we held bazaar for the first time. In the past we participated in a panel exhibition only.

On the stage, there were presentations by various clubs which uses the Balloon facility whereas in the tents there were sales exhibitions of popular items from different rural regions, along with stalls of items offered by Minato City local stores. Inside the Balloon hall, exhibitions were held by different cultural clubs. The *café duex* (1st floor) was bustling with many visitors until it closed at 20:00.

Thanks to sales staff, we could achieve good proceeds from the bazaar. We would like to express our deep appreciation to our members as well as to the Balloon staff who had made tremendous efforts in preparation.

(Written by ISOBE T., VP & Chairperson, the Minato City Citizens' Festival Committee, and translated by KODAMA Y., the PR & Internet Committee)



(Continued from P, 14) UNESCO Press Release

The Organization has undertaken with its partners and national authorities an initial survey of damages to heritage. In Syria, UNESCO is particularly concerned about the situation in the Ancient city of Aleppo, which is on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Significant damage has been noted in the citadel. The western tower of the old city wall has collapsed and several buildings in the souks have been weakened.

In Türkiye, UNESCO is saddened by the collapse of several buildings in the city of Diyarbakır, home to the World Heritage site “Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape”, an important centre of the Roman, Sassanid, Byzantine, Islamic and Ottoman periods. Other sites on the World Heritage List not far from the epicentre could be affected, such as Göbekli Tepe, Nemrut Dağ and Tell of Arslantepe. But so far UNESCO has not received any reports that any of the World Heritage sites have been affected.

UNESCO is mobilizing its experts, in conjunction with its partners such as ICOMOS, to establish a precise inventory of the damage, if there is any, to safeguard these sites with the cooperation of national authorities, while being aware that their priority at this stage is emergency disaster, rescue and relief.

From the UNESCO Press Release

Earthquake in Syria and Türkiye: UNESCO offers support

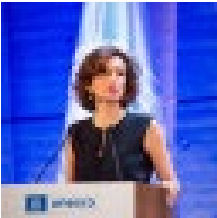
UNESCO on Monday expressed its support for Syria and Türkiye following the devastating earthquakes that struck the two countries.



Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality

7 February 2023

My condolences go out to the families and loved ones of those who died. My thoughts are also with the injured and all those affected. Our organization will provide assistance within its mandate.



Audrey Azoulay

UNESCO's Director-General

(To be continued on P. 13)

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