

Male Voices Ensemble ***PaPas***
Concert 2005

Wednesday, November 23, 2005
Casals Hall, Nippon University, Tokyo

With kind support by **Yomiuri Nippon Television Culture Center**
&
In Association with **KEEP Foundation, Japan**

Thank you for coming to our 5th annual concert today.
We hope you will find our music enjoyable and somewhat memorable.

PROGRAM

Conductor Minoru Sunagawa
Piano Tadayuki Kawahara

I Die Schöne Müllerin (Fair Maid of the Mill) - by Male Chorus

Lyrics by Wilhelm Müller Music by Franz Schubert

Arrangement to Male Chorus by Kazuhiko Koyama

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|-----|------|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. | (1) | Walking | Narration | Eiji Shitomi |
| 2. | (2) | Whither? | | |
| 3. | (3) | Halt! | | |
| 4. | (4) | Thanksgiving to the Brook | | |
| 5. | (6) | Inquisitive | | |
| 6. | (7) | Impatience | | |
| 7. | (16) | The Favorite Color | | |
| 8. | (18) | Faded Flowers | | |
| 9. | (19) | The Miller and the Stream | | |
| 10. | (20) | The Stream's Lullaby | | |

—  **Intermission**  —

II Songs of Japan

From the Song Album "Flutes of Japan" by Kozaburo Hirai

- **Biedé Biedé (A Flower Song)**
- **My Sweetheart is a Cowherd**
- **Old Man's Lament**
- **Young Sailor Sings**

Narayama (Nara Hills)

Pechka (At the Fireplace-side)

Bells Toll

Solitude on the Sand Dune

Kanpyo (Gourd Shavings)

First Love

About "Die Schöne Müllerin" (*Fair Maid of the Mill*)

Lyrics by Wilhelm Müller, Music by Franz Schubert, Arranged by Kazuhiko Koyama

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|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Walking | 2. Whither? | 3. Halt! | 4. Thanksgiving to the Brook |
| 5. Inquisitive | 6. Impatience | 7. The Favorite Color | 8. Faded Flowers |
| 9. The Miller and the Stream | | 10. The Stream's Lullaby | |

Lieder "Die Schöne Müllerin" is a work full of youthfulness, composed by young Schubert (1797 – 1828) in 1823. When he read poems of "Die Schöne Müllerin" written by Müller, a very popular poet then, he was immediately captivated, and spent half a year to compose a lieder book comprising 20 songs to complete a singing tale. The main character there is not the maid but a young apprentice boy at a flour mill on the river. The young man, after completing his apprenticeship, has embarked upon a training trip with his dream to become a master miller. But along the river flow, he comes across a miller's daughter and fell in love with her. The love does not see the day, and with his heart broken he throws himself in the river. The songs lyrically draw the sequence of his fate and state of mind. Today 10 songs are picked from the entire book of 20.

PaPas has sung "Winterreise" (2003) and "Schwanengesang" (2004), the remaining two of the Three Major Lieder

About "Songs of Japan"

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ❖ From Song Album "Flute of Japan" | Lyrics by Hakushu Kitahara | Music by Kozaburo Hirai |
| "Biedé Biedé" (A Flower Song) | "My Sweetheart is a Cowherd" | |
| "Old Man's Lament" | "Young Sailor Sings" | |

In 1943 when he got hold of the poem collection "Flute of Japan" (1921) by Hakushu Kitahara, Kozaburo Hirai did not take more than a few days to compose a total of 21 songs in this album. "Biedé Biedé" is the name of an exotic tropical flower. "Old Man's Lament" is a lamentation of an old man for the loss of a young villager. This male chorus version is by the composer's own arrangement.

- ❖ The wellknown "Narayama" (Nara Hills) was composed also by Kozaburo Hirayama on the lyric by Shihoko Kitami.
- ❖ "Pechka" (At the Fireplace-side), "Bell Tolls" and "Solitude on the Sand Dune" were composed by Kosaku Yamada on the lyrics by Hakushu Kitahara, the golden pair.
- ❖ "Kanpyo" (Gourd Shavings) is a humorous piece, composed by Fumihiko Fukui on the lyric of Hakushu Kitahara.
- ❖ "First Love" is one from the album "Singing for Takuboku (*Ishikawa*)," composed by Tatsunosuke Koshitani, an ex-music teacher at the Aoyama Gakuin Schools.

About the Artists

Minoru Sunagawa

Conductor

Professor Emeritus, Kunitachi College of Music, Tokyo, and member of Nikikai Singers Association.

Graduated Kunitachi College of Music and studied under Maestros Taneko Seki, Ntke Löwe, Takanosuke Watanabe, Teiichi Nakayama, E. Rado, A. del Mota.

After frequent performances as a tenor singer in various operas, concerts and radio programs, moved to Vienna to study at Vienna National Academy.

Made debut in Europe as a soloist in "Misa Solemnis" (Beethoven) at the Vienna Music Festival. Thence, performed in number of concerts and radio programs including, among others, "Christmas Oratorio" (regular concert of Vienna Baroque Ensemble, conducted by Guschelbauer), and concerts of various orchestras and Radio Austria (Lieder by Henri Duparc).

Upon return to Japan, won applauses for singing in operas; eg. Mime (Rheingold, Nikikai Opera), Tamino (Zauberflöte), Jacquino (Fidelio). Was also chosen as a soloist for "Misa Solemnis" in the Beethoven bicentenary memorial concert (conductor: HS Isselstedt) in 1970. Frequently sang tenor solo in Symphony No.9 of Beethoven in the year-end concerts of Tokyo Philharmonic, Tokyo Symphony, Yomiuri Symphony, Tokyo Metropolitan, New Japan Philhamony orchestras. Did a number of recitals for German lieder and appeared on "FM Recitals" of NHK.

Expanding activities recently to conducting and performed "Requiem" (G. Faure), "Mass in B major" (JS Bach), etc. Commitment to Male Ensemble PaPas is another major undertaking in the past several years.

In 1992 and 1993 general-produced "Zauberflöte," and in 1995 "La Bohème" (as part of the 55st Anniversary Program of Tachikawa City). In 2005 superintended "Carmen" (a Tachikawa City civic opera production).

Tadayuki Kawahara

Pianist

Born in Tokyo. Having finished undergraduate and graduate schools of Kunitachi College of Music, appointed as a pianist for the college's Opera Faculty. Thereafter, upon return from Italy, joined Fujiwara Opera Company in 1992 as a co-répétiteur, and participated in various performances. From 1993 also participated in the opera series of Saito Kinen Festival.

Today, he appears on more than 100 stages a year as vocal concert pianist and engages in other activities including giving lessons for accompanying pianists for vocal performances, thus winning the reputation of a most trusted pianist. His field extends further, eg. musical staff for musicals.

His dynamic and flexible sensitivity, in addition to the undisputable playing technique, brings him to the stages of such popular singers' stages as those of Ken Nishikiori and Kumiko Mori.

Lecturer at Kunitachi College of Music.

Eiji Shitomi

Narrator (Actor)

Born in Fukushima-ken. Freelance actor after playing at Shakespeare Theater.

He has appeared in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "The Taming of the Shrew," "Twelfth Night," and "Comedy of Errors," and other stages including "Noises Off" (Michael Frain) and "On the Waterloo Bridge" (Robert E. Sherwood). Today he is active also in reading of poems and various vocal expression performances like reading of Chuya Nakahara, Shinichi Makino, Chekhov, Charles Dickens and O. Henry. Earlier this year, he was in New York and Philadelphia, reading the poems of Edgar Allan Poe and showing Japanese traditional theatrical arts.

PaPas – Musical Staff

Chief Coach	Hiroko Kuroki
Voice Trainer	Tetsuya Sato
Pianist	Maiko Suenaga
Coach	Susumu Matsubara

– Singers

Top Tenor

Abe, Yoichi	A management consultant. His warming-up exercise makes colleague singers ready for singing.
Asai, Hiroyuki	A lyric tenor. Living in Nagoya now, he "commutes" a long distance for rehearsals.
Hirasawa, Teruo	Part Leader. Fond of classic music, classic music, classic music, and antique collection.
Sato, Tetsuya	A genuine lyric tenor, giving voice training to much older other singers.
Shoji, Akiyoshi	An ex-banker. Uses a secret method to memorize Schubert's music in the commuting train rides.
Sunagawa, Makoto	PaPas' leader. Ex-banker, busying himself with PaPas' rehearsals and flying overseas business trips.

Second Tenor

Hino, Tadahiko	Group's trusted Librarian. Never calls a day without singing.
Nagasawa, Koichi	A new face with a conservatory diploma and a long career as school headmaster.
Nikyo, Matsuo	A trusted member who never fails cares to the group's well being, with hot enthusiasm in music.
Seita, Masataka	Joined PaPas this year upon retiring from business career, in the hope to have his college-time singing experience revived once more.
Uchida, Yoshiro	Part Leader. Realizes the impenetrable depths of Schubert's music, in challenging his third lieder work this year.

Baritone

Hashiguchi, Masaru	Seeking to regain his young days' voice and body line, seriously tackles rehearsals.
Ipposhi, Nobutake	Part Leader. Shuttles between Tokyo and Sendai after converting from CPA to a graduate school professor.
Kusamitsu, Hiroshi	Four boys' dad, and most ardently spearheads in tough rehearsals.
Matsubara, Susumu	As a young trained singer studying German lieder, carries the role of nuclear baritone.
Okada, Takashi	An ex-elementary school principal turned to the presbyter wiseman of PaPas. Most senior singer, yet beats others in the speed of memorizing music.
Tsuda, Yoshinobu	Active at church and its choir singing, while taking up the role of treasurer at PaPas.

Bass

Agata, Masahiko	Part Leader. Most "orthodox" chorister at PaPas, admirably fighting against aging of voice.
Azuma, Hiroshi	Deputy Leader. As one of the founding members of PaPas, keeps singing with the belief "Effort Does Not Betray."
Fujii, Koji	Weathered classic choral singer, with trademarks of T-shirt and smoking pipe.
Kozu, Susumu	Demonstrates his un-Japanese-like bass magic, hence, much in demand at various choral groups.
Ohta, Shinya	Elementary school principal, teaching children with undiminishing passion for music and upright posture.
Yamauchi, Harusuke	Chorister since elementary school days, turning from a boy soprano to a highly reliable bass singer.

"PaPas" started in October 2000 when a group of male singers was invited to sing at the "Concert in the Forest" at the Kiyosato Experimental Education Project Foundation (KEEP) in the Yatsugatake Mountains, some 100 miles west from Tokyo. The occasion effectively kicked off a permanent group which seriously tackles a finely woven choral ensemble, under the baton of Minoru Sunagawa, a retired famed tenor singer.

Many of the members are senior amateur singers, experienced in choral singing since college days, but a few young singers who are graduates of conservatories join to add brilliance to the sound. Their average age is not quite young but they are eager enough to manage sparing time to rehearse despite the still busy work duties, seeking a higher level of choral performance. PaPas' spirit ... ? It is the humble but earnest attitude in pursuing music perhaps.

Since its regular annual concert in 2003 to date it has been making unique challenges to sing lieder of Franz Schubert in male chorus.

Along with musical interest, PaPas also tries to help people in developing countries who are suffering from poverty and need to establish their basic life. Now it is donating, although a modest sum yet, out of its concert revenues to such causes through KEEP Foundation and Friends of Haiti.

Further details, and a sample sound of its singing, can be found on its homepage at the following URL.
http://www.ne.jp/asahi/excelcom/mag/ensemble_papas/index.html

Also, please note that the 6th annual concert is scheduled for November 12, 2006 at one of the most prominent concert halls in Tokyo, the Kioi Hall.