

CHORAL MASTERWORKS BY BEETHOVEN & HAYDN

Tokyo Embassy Choir with members of Ensemble Meson

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

KAWAGUCHI LILIA HALL 4F
14:00 START (13:30 OPEN)

Director

Steven G. Morgan

Guest Artists

Chieko Kato, soprano
Yoshiko Ishibashi, mezzo-soprano
Shuntaro Konuma, tenor
Philip Haltman, baritone

Repertoire

Beethoven, "Mass in C"
Haydn, "Te Deum in C"
and other works

Access

Kawaguchi Station in Saitama
JR Keihin-Tohoku Line West Exit, 1 min walk



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Steven G. Morgan is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, the University of Illinois, Eastern Illinois University, and the Union Institute & University. Dr. Morgan began conducting the Tokyo Embassy Choir in 1998 and the Chiba International Singers in 2010. He is an avid composer of music for chorus and orchestra, with major works having been performed in Tokyo, Denver, and New York.

TOKYO EMBASSY CHOIR

The Tokyo Embassy Choir, formerly known as the British Embassy Choir, was formed in the 1980s as the Ichibancho Singers. The choir is currently regarded as Japan's leading ensemble of choristers from many different nations. TEC has a broad repertoire ranging from Bach to Broadway and is proud to offer many of its concerts free of charge, with donations being collected for designated charities.

ENSEMBLE MESON

Ensemble Meson was established in 1987 as a string ensemble and gradually added winds to become a full-fledged chamber orchestra. The name "meson" comes from the work of renowned particle physicist Dr. Hideki Yukawa of Kyoto, where many members spent their youth. The idea of an ensemble that combines different sounds to form a single piece of music is like the action of the meson particle that creates unity within the atom.

SOLOISTS

Chieko Kato Soprano

Chieko graduated from Musashino Academia Musicae with a major in voice. She has extensive experience as a soloist in oratorios and leading roles in numerous operas and operettas in Japan. In June 2018, she made her Taiwanese debut with a concert by composer Yi-Hin Chen. She is a member of the Tokyo Nikikai Opera Foundation and president of Music Studio Mille Merce.

Yoshiko Ishibashi Mezzo-Soprano

Yoshiko graduated from Hoff-Barthelsson Music School, New York, U.S.A. and Keio University Faculty of Law. She has performed as a soloist in numerous operas and oratorios and is highly regarded for her rich musicality and acting ability. She is a member of the Tokyo Nikikai Opera Foundation, Edogawa Music Performers Association, Chiba City Music Association, and the TEC/Tokyo Chamber Singers.

Shintaro Konuma Tenor

Hokkaido native Shintaro graduated from Shobi Gakuen University Department of Music Expression and Graduate School. He has performed in numerous operas and sacred works and as a soloist with the Anthonello Early Music Ensemble. In 2017, he sang solos in the Requiem by Shigeaki Saegusa performed at St. Peter's Basilica to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Vatican's friendship with Japan. He is a member of Vocalconsort Initium, the Icola Chamber Choir, Sound Particles, and the Tokyo Mixed Chorus.

Philip Haltman Baritone

Philip graduated from the School of Music of William Paterson University, New Jersey, Department of Vocal Music. He is a member of the Tokyo Embassy Choir and has been active as a soloist in the Brahms German Requiem and the Mozart Requiem. He was also one of the soloists in Seven Last Words, composed by TEC conductor Steven Morgan. He performs solo recitals with fellow TEC member and pianist Kimiko Tsurusaki.

SPONSORS

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DONATIONS

Donations will be accepted in support of the Shine On! Kids Foundation

Shine On! Kids is a Japanese Nintei-certified NPO supporting children with cancer and other serious illnesses and their families in 29 hospitals throughout Japan through a number of evidence-based, psychosocial support programs.

One core program is the Hospital Facility Dog Program – Japan's first, full-time Animal Assisted Therapy program at a children's hospital. A dog specifically trained for a year and a half to work with children in hospitals is paired with a trained nurse-handler to create a new kind of medical team that is there every day to completely change the landscape of hospital life. A Hospital Facility Dog team makes thousands of visits per year; they accompany children during medical procedures, calm children before and after surgery, work with kids during rehab, comfort parents when their child is going through a tough time and all the while, making the medical staff's work easier!



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