

Shrouded Blossoms

22nd February 2014

19.00h

Kobe Union Church



Concert Program “Shrouded Blossoms”

Donna Tatsuki, Soprano

Chiaki Noda, Harp

Kanji Wakiyama, Pianoforte

F. SCHUBERT (1797-1828) *AN DIE MUSIK* OP.88-4 D547

H. TRNECEK (1858-1916) *SCHUBERT-FANTASIE* OP. 7

R. SCHUMANN (1810-1856) *LIEDERKREIS* OP. 39

In der Fremde
Intermezzo
Waldesgespräch
Die Stille
Mondnacht
Schöne Fremde
Auf einer Burg
In der Fremde
Wehmut
Zwielicht
Im Walde
Frühlingsnacht

**R. SCHUMANN *DREI GESÄNGE AUS LORD BYRONS
HEBRÄISCHEN GESÄNGEN* OP. 95**

Die Tochter Jephtas
An den Mond
Dem Helden

**K. WAKIYAMA (1968-) *SHROUDED BLOSSOMS* (TANKA BY TOHOKU
TSUNAMI SURVIVORS)***

* Japan Premiere

NOTES

This evening's concert begins with Franz Schubert's *An Die Musik*, a hymn to the art of music, and one of his best-known songs.

Harpist, pianist and conductor Hans Trneček tirelessly promoted a Czech national style of music, especially in the realm of opera, and championed Smetana's works. His early Schubert-Fantasie brings back Schubert's most beloved themes of his era. You will recognize whiffs of *Der Lindenbaum*, *Lob der Tränen*, *Ständchen* and *Wohin?* ingeniously woven into a sweeping emotive tapestry. Schubert's spirit must be "smiling through the tears"...

Robert Schumann made significant contributions to all the musical genres of his day but may be best remembered for his songs and piano music. Schumann intended to be a pianist before a composer. Piano preludes, interludes and postludes are extremely important in his songs. The relationship between the singer and pianist is that of a duet more than that of a soloist with an accompanist. *Liederkreis Op. 39* is a song cycle comprised of twelve songs (poetry by Joseph Eichendorff).

Schumann's three songs of Opus 95 are based on Julius Körner's translations into dialect of George Gordon (Lord) Byron's *Hebrew Melodies*. The first song depicts the fanatic loyalty of General Jephtha's daughter who agrees to be sacrificed as a result of her father's tragically reckless vow to God in exchange for a military victory. The second, *An den Mond*, offers a quiet interlude before the bombastic final energy of *Dem Helden*.

The program closes with the Japan premiere of K. Wakiyama's *Shrouded Blossoms*. The title "Shrouded Blossoms" was inspired by a line of verse written by a survivor of the Tohoku Tsunami. Although conventionally a shroud alludes to death, it may also be a protective covering. Blossoms are harbingers of spring, renewal and hope. Each section of the composition renders a musical expression of the images and emotions evoked by the *tanka* verses. The sequence of verses travel from the normalcy of pre-earthquake life through the stages of rescue, relief and recovery towards the "new normalcy" wherein survivors have been transformed and in some ways, may have transcended their suffering.

ARTIST PROFILES

Dr. Donna Tatsuki, a professor in the Graduate School for English Language Education and Research at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, received a degree at University of Toronto in the undergraduate Vocal Performance program (1981) and a post-graduate diploma in Operatic Performance in the University of Toronto Opera School (1982). Donna was invited to sing on CBC radio as a result of her participation in Master Classes with Canadian contralto Maureen Forrester in 1979. She was a soloist with the University of Toronto Orchestra (Victor Feldbrill, conductor) and the North York Philharmonic, as well as cast in lead roles for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Toronto. In Japan, on several occasions she has been a featured soloist at The Symphony Hall in Osaka and a guest artist in Kobe, Tokyo, and Nagano. She has recently taken vocal coaching with Emi Katagiri in Kobe and Maurizio Colacicchi in Rome. In 2011-12 she performed operatic roles with Rome Festival Orchestra, sang the soprano solos in Pergolesi's Stabat Mater at San Vittorino Cathedral and held recitals in Milan, Zurich, Thailand, Rome and Kobe.

Chiaki Noda graduated at the top of her class from Kunitachi College of Music (in Tokyo) where she specialised in Harp under Josef Molnar after studying under Kayoko Kaigawa and Junko Tabuchi in the Kansai area. She regularly appears as a soloist with main orchestras such as Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra, Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra, Japan Century Symphony Orchestra and Osaka Symphony Orchestra. She also has performed in a Cross-country Concert tour sponsored by Sumitomo Life Insurance Company, the Izumi Hall Christmas Concert, The Osaka City Hall Concert and The Opening Concert of Takatsuki Cultural Hall. She performs with various different instrumentalists and vocalists, premiering new works by Japanese composers, accepts invitations by orchestras as a guest harpist and trains the younger generation. The concerts that she gave throughout California after having Phyllis Schlovitz's special lecture were well received. She gave a command performance at the 45th National tree-planting ceremony. She has appeared on both TV and radio shows such as Untitled Concert, Ohayo, Personality Dojo Yozo desu and so on. Her solo recital at Takarazuka Vega Hall was highly acclaimed by the important music news paper, Kansai Ongaku Shinbun that reviewed 'A powerful progress with full of burnish and vividness'. In 2013, her regular self-planned concert at a gallery in Takarazuka was chosen as a Takarazuka Brand. Currently she is a board member of Nippon Harp Association and a lecturer for Heisei College of Music (in Kumamoto).

Kanji Wakiyama studied composition and piano at Osaka College of Music and its graduate school. Since finishing his master's, he has regularly produced concerts for his own compositions as well as performing as an ensemble pianist both at home and abroad. His composition 'Three Poetic Nocturnes' for recitation and piano has been performed in The Netherlands and the USA and his 'Spring Dusk' for mezzo soprano, flute, violoncello and piano garnered good reviews both in the influential music newspaper, 'Kansai Ongaku Shinbun' and the music magazine, 'Ongakuno Tomo'. His composition for two pianos 'Fancy' was broadcast in the NHK classical music radio programme, 'Meikyoku Recital'. Apart from his creative and performing activities, he gives lectures on the subjects related to music theory such as transcription and analysis in various regions and he teaches solfège, harmony, composition and transcription at Osaka College of Music, Doshish Womens College of Liberal Arts, Baika Women's University and Yamaha Namba Centre. Currently he is a member of The Japan Federation of Composers, and Japan Federation of Musicians and a judge of Yamaha Grade Examination.