

SOBR Japan Tour 1975 with Rafael Kubelik

Schedule

Month	Day	Time	Program	Place	Hall
May	24	11:40	Arrived Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) by Pan American Air chartered flight		
	25		Rehearsal at Hibiya Kokaido, Tokyo		
	27	19:30	A→C (*)	Tokyo	Hibiya Kokaido
	28	19:00	B	Tokyo	Tokyo Bunka Kaikan
	29	18:30	C	Nagoya	Nagoya Shimin Kaikan
	30	19:00	C	Osaka	Osaka Festival Hall
	31	19:00	B	Kyoto	Kyoto Kaikan
June	1				
	2	19:00	D	Osaka	Osaka Festival Hall
	3	19:00	B	Tokyo	Hibiya Kokaido, Tokyo
	4	19:00	C→A (*)	Tokyo	Tokyo Bunka Kaikan
	6	18:15	Departure by Swiss Air		

Audite

Program

A	Mahler	Symphony No.9
B	Smetana	Ma vlast
C	Mozart	Symphony No.38
	Fortner	Bluthochzeit Intermezzo
	Beethoven	Symphony No.7
D	Wagner	Tannhäuser Overture
	Hindemith	Symphonic Metamorphosis on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber
	Dvorak	Symphony No.8
	Dvorak	Slavonic Dances Op.72-2 (encore)

Comments

- * Program-A, Mahler Symphony No.9 was initially planned to play at Hibiya Kokaido on May, 27. At the rehearsal on May 25, Kubelik found that the capacity and acoustics of Hibiya Kokaido were not suitable for Mahler No.9. He insisted that program of May 27 should be changed from Mahler (A) to Mozart & Beethoven (C), Accordingly, Program-A, Mahler No.9, was changed to be performed at Tokyo Bunka Kaikan on June 4. That was the last concert of their Asian Tour.

Kubelik and SOBR knew the capacity and acoustics of Tokyo Bunka Kaikan very well, because they had four concerts there in 1965, but they had no experiences with Hibiya Kokaido.

By the change of program, they got a better Hall for Mahler No.9, but encountered another problem. They could not have enough rehearsal time for Mahler No.9 and they might be tired because of their long tour. But the concert was a great success (released later on by Audite in 2000).

Other concerts are not officially released in CD format so far, but available by pirates CD-Rs.

An episode

At that time, Evgeny Mravinsky, a great Russian conductor, who was also in Japan for a concert tour with the Leningrad Philharmonic, sent a flower bouquet to Kubelik to celebrate his success in Tokyo. The gift surprised and pleased Kubelik so much. I believe these two great conductors might have had a chance to meet in Tokyo on June 5th or 6th.

About the hall

Hibiya Kokaido is an old and small hall, built in 1929 for public meeting, not for classical music concert. The acoustics is very dry and dead one. "Kokaido" means "Public Hall" or "Town Hall". Tokyo Bunka Kaikan is a relatively newer and larger hall, built for classical music and opera in 1961. The acoustics is slightly dry, compared with traditional European concert halls. But the hall has been one of the best hall for classical music in Tokyo, until the Suntory Hall built for the concert in 1986, New National Theater, Tokyo (NNTT) built for the opera in 1997. "Bunka Kaikan" means "Cultural Hall".

Halls

Hibiya Kokaido	http://hibiya-kokaido.com/kokaido.html	(in Japanese)
Tokyo Bunka Kaikan	http://www.t-bunka.jp/en/index.html	(in English)
Nagoya Shimin Kaikan	http://www.bunka758.or.jp/02shisetsu/02shisetsu_01.html	(in Japanese)
Osaka Festival Hall	http://www.festivalhall.jp/	(in Japanese)
Kyoto Kaikan	http://www.kyoto-ongeibun.jp/kyotokaikan/	(in Japanese)
Suntory Hall	http://www.suntory.com/culture-sports/suntoryhall/	(in English)
New National Theater	http://www.nntt.iac.go.jp/english/index.html	(in English)