

SPECIAL CONCERT - *Love against wars*

UKRAINE

GLOBAL RING THEATER @ IKEBUKURO West Gate Park, TOKYO

MAR.11.2022 FRI

Concert for Ukraine in Tokyo

KATO Lio-ichi, EGAWA Yoshihiro

Maestro Ken-ichiro Kobayashi (commonly called Koba-ken) stands to send a musical cheer from Japan to the people of Ukraine, where Russia continues its aggression. On the evening of March 11, Mr. Koba-ken and his friends orchestra gave a "Concert in support of Ukraine" at the Global Ring Theater, an outdoor theater in Ikebukuro Nishiguchi Park.



Before the orchestra played, Ms. Oksana Stepanyuk, a soprano singer from Ukraine who lives in Tokyo, sang "The National Anthem of Ukraine". Her voice was powerful, and I believe it reached the hearts of the many peace-minded audiences filled the hall.

Active and former members of the Waseda University Glee Club and the Keio University Wagner Society Male Chorus participated for "Finlandia Hymn" in "Finland". This song encouraged the Finnish people, who were suffering under the oppressive rule of Imperial Russia, and is now considered to be the second national anthem of Finland. It remains a famous story that the Imperial Russian government banned the performance of "Finlandia".



[Program]

Jean Sibelius: Tone Poem "Finlandia"

Irish Folk Song: Danny Boy

Maurice Ravel: Bolero

Ken-ichiro Kobayashi, conductor

Koba-ken and his friends Orchestra

Oksana Stepanyuk (Ukraine), soprano solo

The Waseda University Glee Club, The Keio University Wagner Society Male Chorus, choirs



In Ravel's "Bolero," the snare drums beat the unchanging ostinato rhythm, the two melodies are repeated with different instruments, and the music begins pianissimo and rising in a continuous crescendo to fortissimo as possible (the longest crescendo piece in the world).

Mr. Koba-ken concluded, "I felt that it reached into your emotion or sensibility, left a lasting your memory, and it will help Ukraine in the future."



What is surprising is that this concert was planned only a week ago. Mr. Koba-ken felt that this was the time to do it, so he negotiated with the mayor of Toshima Ward, gathered the members of orchestra and choruses, and put the concert on the schedule in four or five days.

The blue of the Ukrainian flag represents the blue sky, and the yellow is a wheat field.

We pray that peace will come to Ukraine as soon as possible.

