

Country Report Japan 2008

Japanese civil law of public corporation system was established in 1895, and since then it has played an important role in the field of non-profit activities by private organizations.

The Japan Federation of Composers Inc. was authorized as the public corporation by the Agency for Cultural Affairs in 1983, we have been very active in music culture in Japan. Now because of “the reform of public corporation system”, we have to choose a suitable organization; public corporation or general corporation, or any other organization and have to change the statutes of the JFC according to the law.

The new system started on 1st December 2008, during the 5 years’ grace, more than 25,000 public corporations in Japan have to decide its own way in future.

We the JFC are continuing discussing with our members at the General Assembly or in another meeting and we are now thinking to become the general corporation; we continue public service such as [JFC Award competition] and other concerts besides some activities that are for our members.

At the Special General Assembly in January 2008, the president Asei Kobayashi and the other new board members were authorized. The former president and about 15 board members were resigned within their three-year term and withdrew.

The new board members are almost all new faces, and they are very active and trying to attend every board meeting since last January. And besides the board meeting, we have had extra meetings to discuss next year’s activities. We have established some rules of the JFC not to repeat such a mistake.

Since April 2008, we have succeeded annual activities as same as the former year.

On 24th November, we hold the piano concert the 24th “To the Children” Kids’ BOX Piano Concert, and where 29 pieces for children include 14 duos were performed. Basically half of the pieces were commissioned by the committee inside the JFC. And the other half was selected among the works applied by the members.

Solo pieces were performed by composers. Duo pieces were performed by composers themselves and children who were 8 years old to 11 years old. Performance was warmly received.

This annual concert is for children and piano teachers. During 23 years, over 900 pieces were composed and premiered at the concert. Amongst the concerts of serious contemporary music, this concert has given the opportunity to the audience to meet a contemporary piece; it is to say it becomes the concert for contemporary music

beginners. Although it has a good review, we have to endeavor to get bigger audience. Our members include commercial music composers, children's song writers, arrangers and serious music composers. So it is to say, almost all members can join this concert.

In 2009, this concert will be the 25th anniversary. We hope that we can provide children with repertoire which children are eager to perform.

The score is sold at the music shops and also through the internet.

This concert is supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

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We have published scores since 1974. Among these pieces published, we have two-day concerts "Japanese Composers". We held the 36th "Japanese Composers 2009" concerts on 12th and 13th February this year. 8 pieces were performed among publication 2008 and 6 among this year's publication. Publication, concert and recording are linking each other. Recently it has become easier and cheaper to publish scores. Members who apply our publication have decreased. But until now the total number of our publication is up to 700 works.

It is important to make Japanese composers' pieces popular to many musical organizations and performers abroad. And we believe this publication has played the important role to spread Japanese works to abroad for more than 30 years. This concert is also supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and SARAH(Society for Administration of Remuneration for Audio Home Recording).

Besides these concerts, we also hold "The JFC Independent" for two days in October. Each stage was about 70 minutes, rather short concert. We intended to make an atmosphere easy to join the concert. Each day had three stages, and totally 23 pieces were performed.

In the fiscal year 2009, the JFC will have "JFC Award competition". We had already held 4 times before since 2001. It is open to the young generation composers under 35 years old. The 5th JFC Award competition concert will be held on 20 March 2010 at the Toppan Hall in Tokyo. Since the 3rd competition, we have called for scores only for chamber ensemble from 9 to 16 performers. We wish many excellent pieces will be applied and performed at the concert. Now we are calling for scores:

Orchestra : Japan Philharmonic Orchestra

Conductor: Toshiaki Umeda

Jury: Jo Kondo

As the previous director's term expired, the JFC had an election in March. The new term of the new directors will begin after they will be authorized by the general assembly in June.