



THE CHIBA PREFECTURE YOUTH ORCHESTRA



千葉県青少年オーケストラ



Chiba Prefecture Youth Orchestra Tokyo Concert (2019, Suntory Hall), conducted by Michiyoshi Inoue. Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 in E-flat major, K.271, "Jeunehomme" with pianist Makoto Ozone. The orchestra also performed Shostakovich's Symphony No. 1 in F minor, Op. 10 and others.

## Chiba Prefecture is proud to present Japan's premier and the nation's first youth orchestra

The Chiba Prefecture Youth Orchestra was formed in June 1996 as the first youth orchestra in Japan at the prefectural level. With Ms. Shigeko Saji, who served as a music teacher at elementary and junior high schools for many years, as its musical director, the orchestra consists of 160 members ranging in age from 4th grade to 20 years old who live or attend school in Chiba Prefecture. Members gather from all over the prefecture on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays at the Chiba Prefectural Cultural Hall for more than 100 days of activities per year. The orchestra has grown to be considered one of the best youth orchestras in the world today, receiving instruction on their respective parts from performers who are active in professional orchestras and are highly skilled in teaching. The high level of the orchestra's performance is also

evidenced by the fact that the orchestra has performed with renowned conductors such as Michiyoshi Inoue, Yutaka Sado, and Kazuki Yamada, as well as world-class soloists such as Makoto Ozone, Martha Argerich, and Mayuko Kamio.

The motto of the orchestra, which has remained unchanged since it was founded, is "Good performance with good sound." This is imbued with the meaning that each member of the orchestra will make an effort to produce a "good sound" and unite their hearts to create a "good performance" by playing a beautiful tune. Furthermore, the purpose of our activities is not only to acquire the performing technique necessary to produce a "good sound," but also to nurture the rich minds of children and develop their humanity through music. The valuable experience gained through such activities is a great asset for the members who will go on to various fields, not limited to music, after graduation. A cycle has also been established in which alumni who have become professional players after graduation return as instructors, or become active as music teachers or in the field of culture to enhance music activities within the prefecture.



left) Joint performance of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" March No. 1, Op. 39 with the Chiba Symphony Orchestra at the Dream Collaboration Concert (2020, Chiba Prefectural Cultural Hall). The Chiba Prefecture Youth Orchestra, conducted by Kazuki Yamada, performed Beethoven's Romance No. 2 in F major, Op. 50 and Overture to "Egmont" in F minor, Op. 84.

right) Practice scene with Shigeko Saji, Music Director, in the center.





# Chiba Prefecture Youth Orchestra: Comments from Members

## We received various comments from the members of the group!

### Q. Do you have any memorable performances (or songs)? Explain why?

The 20th Regular Concert is memorable. In Beethoven Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125 "with chorus" conducted by Tatsuya Shimono, I was overwhelmed by the chorus of the Tokyo Opera Singers. It was also a concert where I admired our predecessors who were able to perform with professional musicians.



Violin, 2nd year university student

Paganini's Violin Concerto No.1 in D major, Op.6, which I performed with Mayuko Kamio at the 27th Regular Concert, is the most memorable piece I have ever played.



Contrabass, 6th grade elementary school student

### Q. When do you feel happy to have joined the Chiba Prefecture Youth Orchestra?

The members of the Chiba Prefecture Youth Orchestra are all warm-hearted and easy to be with. I feel blessed by the virtue of humanity.



Viola, 1st year university student

Many people have told me how wonderful it was and how they would like to hear it again, and I feel happy to have joined the group in various situations, such as when I am able to create beautiful sounds with others through repeated practice, and when I feel my own growth.



Clarinet, 2nd year junior high school student

## TRIVIA YOU WILL WANT TO TELL SOMEONE!



Practice at Aobanomori Park Art and Culture Hall

### The spirit of "Practice even after you can do it!"

When I performed with world-renowned pianist Martha Argerich, I was influenced by her practice of four hours a night from 8:00 p.m. after the concert, without a break. I changed my mindset from "practice until you can do it" to "Practice even after you can do it!" We are practicing as one to deliver the best performance.

### Image of symbol mark and title text

The symbol mark, shaped like a silhouette of a violin, was created by Yukie Ogaki, a graphic designer from Ichikawa City who was a flute player in the Chiba Prefecture Youth Orchestra. The title lettering of the band's name on the fliers and posters of the performances were created by Shudo Yoshihara, a calligrapher living in Narashino City, expressing "the crisp image of boys and girls performing."



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### Performing not only in Chiba, but also in other prefectures and overseas

In addition to the regular concert held every March to showcase the results of daily practice, the orchestra also holds special concerts and invitational concerts. The orchestra performs both inside and outside of Chiba, and is even invited to perform overseas sometimes! So far, there have been concerts in the United States, South Korea, Germany, and Bulgaria, all of which have been well received.