

Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra

*Presented by The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam
Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra*

Date & Time: Monday, October 24, 2011 @ 8:00PM

Title: VNSO First Harmony Tour to the USA 2011

Venue: Boston Symphony Hall

Program:

SAMUEL BARBER Adagio for Strings

DAM LINH Violin Concerto, "Thang Long"

ANTONIN DVORÁK Symphony No. 8

Trong Com (Vietnamese folk song, arr. Ngo Hoang Quan)

Ly Hoai Nam (Vietnamese folk song, arr. Ngo Hoang Quan)

Introduction:

The Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra visits the U.S.A. for the first time in its 50 years of history, making North American premiere appearances at Carnegie Hall in New York and Boston Symphony Hall. Led by the internationally renowned maestro Honna Tetsuji, the program of the VNSO's this commemorative concert includes a masterpiece by the great American composer Samuel Barber and the works inspired by the cultural heritage of Vietnam. The award-winning violinist Le Hoai Nam is featured in the violin concerto "Thang Long" composed by a legendary Vietnamese composer Dam Linh.



Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra

The origins of the Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra (the VNSO) can be traced back to 1959, made up entirely of professional musicians led by Principal Conductor/ Music Director Tetsuji Honna. The orchestra now gives almost 60 concerts a year, with a repertoire ranging from classical to romantic and contemporary music including many works by present-day Vietnamese composers. The great progress made by the VNSO in virtuosity and musicianship has been warmly recognised by the musical public, press, critics and colleagues in Vietnam.

As an ambassador for music in Vietnam, the VNSO has taken organized and participated in numerous significant events. In 2003, the VNSO held a number of important exchange concerts to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Vietnam, as well as the ASEAN - Japan Exchange Year. In March 2003, the Orchestra Osaka Symphoniker visited Vietnam and held joint concerts with the VNSO at the Hanoi Opera House. In March 2005, the VNSO and the Tubingen Chamber Orchestra of Germany with conductor Gudni A. Emilsson performed in a joint-concert supported by the Goethe Institute. In recent years, many concerts and events have been jointly organised by the VNSO with the support of members of the international diplomatic community including the Japanese Embassy, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Austrian Embassy, German Embassy and the Goethe Institute, Cultural Centre of France (L'espace), etc., clearly demonstrating the important role it plays towards building friendship between Vietnam and the rest of the world.

On the international stage, the VNSO made its first concert tour outside Vietnam in September 2000 with conductor Yoshikazu Fukumura to 4 major cities in China including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Guangxi. In September 2003, the orchestra performed in Laos and Thailand with resident conductor Graham Sutcliffe. In October 2003, the orchestra toured to Nanning, China with Colin Meters and in October 2004, gave concerts in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan with Tetsuji Honna as part of the Asia Orchestra Week festival. The performances were considered successful and were given recognition in the press and by critics and the musical community celebrating the great advances made by the VNSO in their gradual process toward attaining an international reputation. Especially, in May 2008, VNSO once again performed under the baton of Tetsuji Honna in the classical music festival "La folle journee au Japon" in Tokyo, Japan, which attracted more than 1,000,000 participants. VNSO gave 5 concerts to 12,000 people. Particularly, the concert on May 3rd attracted as many as 4,300 concert

goers. This concert tour is said to be very successful and received high appreciation from critics, colleagues, indicating the great advance of the orchestra to regional and international standards.



(c) KOJIMA Ryusei



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HONNA Tetsuji, Music Director and Principal Conductor of VNSO

Tetsuji Honna studied under Kazuo Yamada and Michiyoshi Inoue.

His history of awards includes

- 1985 2nd prize of Tokyo International Music Competition for conducting
- 1990 2nd prize of Toscanini International Conducting Competition Parma Italy
- 1992 1st prize and the Bartok prize of Budapest International Conducting Competition
- 1994 Matsumura Prize
- 1995 Nippon Steel Music Award Fresh Artist
- 1997 Osaka Stage Arts Encouragement Award
- 2005 the Gran Prix by Japan Music Pen club
- 2009 Ambassador prize of Embassy of Japan in Vietnam
- 2010 Vietnamese Composer's association Prize
- 2011 Japanese Foreign Minister's Award

HONNA conducted numerous orchestra including Philharmonica della Scala in Milano, the Orchestra Sinfonica dell Emilia Romagna "Arturo Toscanini, the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg ,Philharmonia Orchestra ,the Hungarian State Philharmonic,the Hungarian Radio Sym.Orch. , Budapest Philharmony,the Zagreb Philharmonic, the Brno State Philharmonic Orchestra, the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Romanian Radio Orchestra,Shanghai Philharmony Orchestra,Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra

and Viotta Ensemble which consists by the principal members of Royal Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra and La Tempesta Chamber Orchestra Finland.

In 2000 Honna made 8 different Asian Countries "TOYOTA CLASSICS" with Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra.

Honna has been invited to many international festivals including the Carinthischer Sommer in Austria, the Bartók Festival in Szombathely, Mostly Mozart in Tokyo, Seoul in Autumn, Asian Music Festival in Tokyo, 2007 "Kogakudogen Shingakukyoso" Modern Music Festival in Beijing and Hanoi, Oulunsalo Music Festival in Finland, Suntory Summer Festival, Ditto Festival in Seoul, Karuizawa International Music Festival, "La Folle Journee au Japon" with Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra, Academie Internationale des nuits Pianistiques(Aix en Provence,France) and "Milano Musica" contemporary music festival at the Teatro alla Scala.

In the opera world, he has directed modern works such as "Chung Hyang" by Toroku Takagi and "Orpheo of Hiroshima" by Yasushi Akutagawa, "Momo" by Toshi Ichiyanagi, and "Satyricon" by Bruno Maderna and many Mozart Operas.

Honna was appointed permanent conductor of the Osaka Symphony Orchestra (1995 - 2001) and Principal Conductor of the Japan Chamber Orchestra (1993 - 1997) which plays mainly 20th century music. From 1998 to 2001 Honna was Permanent Guest Conductor of the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra. And he was Music Director of the Orchestra Nipponica (2003-2010) which mainly perform Japanese Modern works.

In February 2009 he became Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Vietnam National Orchestra which he had been Music Adviser and Conductor since 2001.

He has made many excellent CD recordings with Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra Nipponica, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, La Tempesta Chamber Orchestra (Finland) and Slovenian Philharmony etc..



Le Hoai Nam
Violinist

Born in Hanoi, Le Hoai Nam was accepted to the Hanoi National Conservatory of Music when he was seven years old and honed his skills with Professor Michael Ma at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA). He has appeared as a soloist with the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Vietnam National Opera and Ballet Orchestra, Hanoi String Chamber Orchestra and HKAPA Symphony Orchestra. He was also invited to be guest concertmaster of the Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra and Asian Chamber Orchestra. Le currently teaches at HKAPA and is Second Violin Principal of Hong Kong Sinfonietta.