

WFAO World Amateur Orchestra Festival

Milan September 17, 2015 - September 20, 2015

Report prepared by Alex Van Beveren and Tommaso Napoli

About WFAO

The World Federation of Amateur Orchestras (www.worldamateurorchestras.com) was founded in 1997 in Kanazawa, Japan. Founder and driving force behind WFAO was the late Mr. Motoyasu Morishita, who expanded the mission of the previously formed World Youth Orchestra Conference. The WYOC was founded in 1991 by the Japanese Amateur Orchestra federation (JAO), to promote global youth orchestra initiatives. WFAO expanded this mission to include both youth and adult amateur orchestras.

Mr. Morishita's infectious enthusiasm and unrelenting energy led to annual gatherings, where musicians from all over the world came together to make music. Highlights include the World Amateur Orchestra at Expo 2005 in Nagoya and Expo 2010 in Shanghai, as well as the WFAO Orchestra Festival in Shizuoka in 2012.

Mr. Morishita was first succeeded by Richard Chester in 2009, and then by David Ramael in 2011 at the Glasgow General Assembly. At that same meeting WFAO adopted new bylaws, in line with the truly international character of the organization.

About the 2015 World Amateur Orchestra Festival

At the 2013 WFAO General Assembly in Shizuoka, Tommaso Napoli of AIMA and ContrArco in Italy, accepted to organize - for the first time in Europe - a WFAO Amateur Orchestra Festival, to be held in Milan at the occasion of the 2015 World Expo. WFAO and AIMA found willing partners in the prestigious *MiTo Settembre Musica* Festival and the *Conservatorio di Musica "G. Verdi,"* who offered their full support to promote WFAO's festival.

More than 90 amateur musicians from 17 different nationalities and 5 continents assembled in Milan to perform under the baton of conductors Joe Yamaji from Japan and Mario Gioventù from Italy, with Elena Ponzoni as concertmaster. During 4 days of rehearsals and social gatherings all participants became acquainted with each other and new international friendships were born. Playing the final concert at the legendary *Conservatorio di Musica "G. Verdi"* proved to be the perfect conclusion to a rewarding week. Italian soprano Federica Vitali opened the concert with arias by Puccini, followed by Sibelius' Symphony No 2. The applause at the end of the concert showed how much the audience appreciated the hard work and artistry put forth by everyone on stage.

Furthermore, the World Amateur Orchestra Festival became the launching platform for a new Italian amateur orchestras association, called FedIOrAm - Italian Federation of Amateur Orchestras. As of 2016 FedIOrAm will replace AIMA as the official representative for amateur musical activities in Italy. This new association starts with four orchestras as founding members, all of whom participated in the WFAO festival: OSAI (Orchestra Sinfonica Amatoriale Italiana, from Cuneo), Terrazzo Musicale (from Brescia), Cremaggiore (from Cremona), and ContrArco (from Milano).

FedIOrAm already has established contacts with other amateur orchestra associations in Italy. Soon they will increase their recruitment efforts in order to support – once a year and in partnership with EoFed (European Federation of Amateur Orchestras) – an Italian amateur orchestra festival, to be held yearly in a different city.

Additional WFAO events

WFAO's aim is not only to organize international amateur orchestra festivals but also to promote international exchanges and to support amateur music-making worldwide. Concurrent with the festival in Milan, two WFAO members – the Nepalese Crescendo Orchestra and the Norwegian Youth Orchestra Association – had a very successful workshop in Kathmandu, with a final concert broadcasted on the National News Channel.

Conclusion

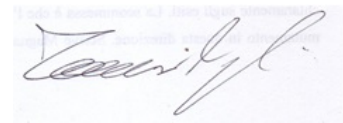
Both events – in Milan and Kathmandu – prove the necessity of continuing to develop the work which started under Mr. Morishita's guidance in Japan for the benefit of amateur musicians worldwide. The World Federation of Amateur Orchestras therefor would welcome to collaborate with IMC members on future projects that benefit amateur music making.



David Ramael
Chairman, WFAO



Alex Van Beveren
Vice Chairman, WFAO



Tommaso Napoli
President, FedIOrAm

Fun Facts

90 participants from 17 different nationalities, 5 continents, age between 6 and 75

Conductors: Joe Yamaji (Japan), Mario Gioventù (Italy)

Concertmaster: Elena Ponzoni (Italy)

Soloist: Federica Vitali, soprano (Italy)

Program:

Giacomo PUCCINI, Mi chiamano Mimi from 'La Bohème' (1896)

Giacomo PUCCINI, Vissi d'Arte from 'Tosca' (1900)

(as encore):

Giacomo PUCCINI, Un bel di vedremo from 'Mme Butterfly' (1904)

Jean SIBELIUS, Symphony no 2, in D, op 43 (1901-02)

Concert-hall:

Conservatorio di Musica "G. Verdi" di Milano, Via Conservatorio 12, Milano

Rehearsal venues:

Teatro Sala Fontana, Via Boltraffio 21, Milano

Conservatorio di Musica "G. Verdi" di Milano, Via Conservatorio 12, Milano

Collaboration between:

World Federation Amateur Orchestras (WFAO), www.worldamateuorchestras.com

Associazione Italiana Musicisti Amatori (AIMA), www.aimamusic.it

MiToSettembre Musica, www.mitosettembremusica.it

Conservatorio di Musica "G. Verdi" di Milano, www.consmilano.it

With support of :

Teatro sala Fontana, www.teatrosalafontana.it

NPO-WFAO, www.npowfao.or.jp

Fondazioni Cariplo, www.fondazionecariplo.it

Director of the festival: Tommaso Napoli (AIMA, ContrArco, WFAO)

With support of: Alex Van Beveren (WFAO)

Technical staff: members of orchestra ContrArco (www.contrarco.it)

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND NATIONALITIES

Name	Surname	Origin	Instrument
Mario	Gioventù	Italy	00. Conductor
Yuzuru	Yamaji	Japan	00. Conductor
Federica	Vitali	Italy	01. Soprano
Elena	Ponzoni	Italy	02. Concertmaster
Chiang Sheng Johnny	Kuo	USA	02. Violin 1
Kanako	Naka	Japan	02. Violin 1
Consuelo	Cova	Italy	02. Violin 1
Naoko	Omori	Japan	02. Violin 1
Cristina	Selvaggi	Italy	02. Violin 1
Hiroshi	Kakiuchi	Japan	02. Violin 1
Antonia	Di Donato Krauss	Italy	02. Violin 1
Nina	Baratti	Italy	02. Violin 1
Setsuko	Otani	Japan	02. Violin 1
Tommaso	Pavolini	Italy	02. Violin 1
Keiko	Narita	Japan	02. Violin 1
Kyota	Kakiuchi	Japan	02. Violin 1
Marco	Grippa	Italy	02. Violin 1
Francesco	Calandrina	Italy	02. Violin 1
Kyungmyung	Kim	Korea	03. Violin 2
Tommaso	Napoli	Italy	03. Violin 2
Liina-Grete	Lilender	Estonia	03. Violin 2
Haruo	Hiramatsu	Japan	03. Violin 2
David	Eckhaut	France	03. Violin 2
Kikuko	Morishita	Japan	03. Violin 2
Park	JeongGwang	Korea	03. Violin 2
Yukiko	Arino	Japan	03. Violin 2
Rika	Shimada	Japan	03. Violin 2
Gyeom	Jung	Korea	03. Violin 2
Maryem	Fama	Spain	03. Violin 2
Minyoung	Lee	Korea	03. Violin 2
Tamara	Auer	Australia	04. Viola
Christine	Wagner	Germany	04. Viola
Taave	Lips	Estonia	04. Viola

Alice	Marini	Italy	04. Viola
Giuliana	Fumagalli	Italy	04. Viola
Daniela	Colella	Italy	04. Viola
Adelio	Ponzoni	Italy	04. Viola
Francesco	Ghigo	Italy	04. Viola
Priscilla	Panzeri	Italy	04. Viola
Jihae	Yoon	Korea	05. Cello
Valentina	Vicario	Italy	05. Cello
Paolo	Burlo	Italy	05. Cello
Lydie	Lane	France	05. Cello
Konstantinos	Giannos	Greece	05. Cello
Giovanni	Canino	Italy	05. Cello
Giacomo	Molteni	Italy	05. Cello
Euna	Jung	Korea	05. Cello
Vassilia	Chachlakis	Italy	05. Cello
Riccardo	Donadio	Italy	05. Cello
Carolina	Ferraris	Italy	05. Cello
Sergio	Brenna	Italy	06. Double Bass
Giorgio	Dini	Italy	06. Double Bass
Federico	Donadoni	Italy	06. Double Bass
Fabio	Longo	Italy	06. Double Bass
Stefano	Scopece	Italy	06. Double Bass
Max	Confalonieri	Italy	06. Double Bass
Beppe	Barbareschi	Italy	06. Double Bass
Francesco	Marzano	Italy	07. Flute
Seorim	Kim	Korea	07. Flute
Jiyoung	Lee	Korea	07. Flute
Shigenori	Fukuda	Japan	07. Flute
Beike	Wang	China	08. Oboe
Edmondo	Canonico	Italy	08. Oboe
Antonella	Varvara	Italy	08. Oboe
Alex	Van Beveren	Belgium	09. English Horn
Daniele	Primucci	Italy	10. Clarinet
Elisa	Pezzulla	Italy	10. Clarinet
Peder	Krabbe	Denmark	10. Clarinet
Takuya	Nishizawa	Japan	11. Bassoon

Luca	Pellegrini	Italy	11. Bassoon
Emanuele	Vinci	Italy	11. Bassoon
Andrea	Ternavasio	Italy	12. French horn
Ivo Paul	Gienal	Switzerland	12. French horn
Heinz	Zimmermann	Switzerland	12. French horn
Daniel Arnold	Kellerhals	Switzerland	12. French horn
Eurico	Alves	Portugal	13. Trumpet
Lello	Maio	Italy	13. Trumpet
Alessio	Dal Piva	Italy	13. Trumpet
Max	Kutsenko	Ukraine	14. Tenor Trombone
Marten-Ingmar	Merivee	Estonia	14. Tenor Trombone
Claudio	Mainardi	Italy	14. Tenor Trombone
Viido	Pöldma	Estonia	15. Bass Trombone
Angelo	Maccarone	Italy	16. Tuba
Maryem	Fama	Morocco	17. Harp
Vincenzo	Mazzoccoli	Italy	18. Percussions

PICTURES OF THE CONCERT







Ph. Francesco Gozzini





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