



International Community Engagement Program

2010 Laos

20–30 December 2010

Tour Report

MUSIC SHARING

The Fifth International Community Engagement Program (ICEP) took place between 20 and 30 December 2010 in Laos, following rehearsals in Japan between 17 and 19 December 2010.

Concept:

The International Community Engagement Program has several goals:

- to offer children, especially those in difficult circumstances, the opportunity to experience the beauty and the treasure of music;
- to give the participating young musicians an opportunity to broaden their horizons, especially with regard to community engagement;
- to promote international exchange, not only between Japan and the target country but also between the home countries of the participating artists and the target country;
- to inspire cultural understanding and establish friendships with the goal of creating a more peaceful world.

ICEP sent a string quartet to Vietnam in 2006, Cambodia in 2007, Indonesia in 2008, and Mongolia in 2009. The ICEP quartet that visited Laos in December 2010 gave performances at schools, hospitals, and other institutions.

The quartet consisted of Midori and three young musicians selected through audition.

Participating Artists:

Midori Goto, Violin
Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu, Violin
Helena Baillie, Viola
Peter Myers, Cello



Luang Prabang Orphanage School



Ethnic Minority School

Photos: Shinobu Suzuki

ICEP 2010 Laos

Presented by: Music Sharing
Co-sponsored by: Embassy of Japan in Laos
Sponsored by: Kikkoman, Kao, INPEX, MOECO, ANA, Hayashibara Foundation
Subsidized by: Japan Foundation
Supported by: Embassy of the United States of America in Laos
United Nations Development Programme
Action with Lao Children
Japanese Cleft Palate Foundation

Schools, orphanages, hospitals and institutions visited

Venues: 18 Locations Total Audience: Approximately 4,000



Sathit Primary School

Schedule

DATE			ACTIVITIES	VENUE	
12	20	Mon		Flight	
			0:30am	Lv. Haneda	
			11:00am	Ar. Vientiane, Laos	
			2:00pm	Lectures : Lao Music and Education system	Guest house at Vientiane
			6:00pm	Rehearsal	
12	21	Tue	9:00am	Visiting Concert 1	Sathit Primary School *3 Performances
			11:30am	Visiting Concert 2	Setthathirath Hospital
				Lv. Vientiane	
				Ar. Luang Prabang	
			6:30pm	Rehearsal	
12	22	Wed	10:00am	Visiting Concert 3	Luang Prabang Orphanage School *2 Performances
			12:00pm	Area study	Museum/Temple
			4:30pm	Visiting Concert 4	Children's Culture Center Luang Prabang
12	23	Thu	10:00am	Visiting Concert 5	Ban Tin Som Primary School
			2:00pm	Visiting Concert 6	Ban Muang Kai Primary School
			3:30pm	Exchange with Ban Muang Kai family	
12	24	Fri	10:00am	Visiting Concert 7	Ethnic Minority School
			2:00pm	Visiting Concert 8	SOS School Luang Prabang
				Lv. Luang Prabang Ar. Vientiane	
12	25	Sat	9:00am	Visiting Concert 9	SOS School Vientiane
			2:00pm	Visiting Concert 10	National Rehabilitation Center (NRC) School
			3:30pm	Visit COPE	
12	26	Sun	9:00am	Visiting Concert 11	Children's Education and Development Center
			11:00am	Visiting Concert 12	Library of NPO Action with Lao Children
			1:00pm	Rehearsal	BUDO Center
			7:00pm	Free Concert for the Public	BUDO Center
12	27	Mon	11:00am	Visiting Concert 13	Thapabat Secondary School (Bolikhamxay Pref)
			3:00pm	Visiting Concert 14	Phasing Primary School
				Back to Vientiane	
12	28	Tue	10:00am	Visiting Concert 15	Thong Khan Kham Primary School
			1:30pm	Concert & Cultural Exchange	National Music and Dance School
12	29	Wed	9:00am	Visiting Concert 16	Vientiane Youth Center and Clinic
			4:30pm	Lv. Vientiane	
12	30	Tue		Flight	
			6:30am	Ar. Haneda	

ICEP 2010 LAOS Quartet

Profiles

Midori Goto (Violin)



Photo: Tomokazu Nishizawa

Since her debut at the age of 11 with the New York Philharmonic over 25 years ago, the violinist Midori has established a record of achievement which sets her apart as a master musician, an innovator, and a champion of the developmental potential of children. Named a Messenger of Peace by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2007, she has created a new model for young artists who seek to balance the joys and demands of a performing career at the highest level with a hands-on investment in the power of music to change lives.

In 1992 Midori founded Midori & Friends, a non-profit organization in New York, which brings music education programs to thousands of underprivileged children each year. Two other organizations, Music Sharing (based in Japan), and Partners in Performance (based in the US), also bring music into the lives of people who might not otherwise have involvement with the arts. Midori's commitment to community collaboration and outreach extends beyond these foundations to her work with young violinists in master classes all over the world, to her Orchestra Residencies Program, and to her positions as Jascha Heifetz Chair and Chair of the Strings Department at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music.

Official website <http://www.gotomidori.com/>

Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu (Violin)



Violinist Tien-Hsin “Cindy” Wu enjoys a versatile career as a soloist and chamber musician throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Having appeared as a soloist with orchestras including the Russian State Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, Ms. Wu has also collaborated in concert with Gary Graffman, Gary Hoffman, Kim Kashkashian, Ida Kavafian, William Preucil, Thomas Quasthoff, and members of the Alban Berg, Guarneri, Orion, and Tokyo string quartets at prominent venues as the Kennedy Center, Library of Congress and Alice Tully Hall.

A dedicated educator, Ms. Wu will begin teaching violin this fall as an adjunct professor at at the University of Southern California’s Thornton School of Music.

Helena Baillie (Viola)



Helena Baillie graduated from The Curtis Institute of Music in violin and viola. Her 2008 New York recital debut was hailed by The Strad magazine for its “brilliance and poignance.” Ms. Baillie has performed chamber music with Pinchas Zukerman and with the Beaux Arts Trio. She has performed for the Alexander Schneider Series at Carnegie Hall and given recitals throughout Europe and America. She received the Bärenreiter prize at the 2004 ARD competition and prizes at the 2001 Banff and 2003 Tertis competitions. Ms. Baillie is honored to be named the 2010 Artist-Fellow at the Bard College Conservatory of Music in New York.

Peter Myers (Cello)



Cellist Peter Myers received his Master’s degree with Ralph Kirshbaum at the University of Southern California, and his Bachelor’s degree at the Colburn Conservatory with Ronald Leonard. He is a repeat participant of the Marlboro Music Festival, and has performed with such musicians as Richard Goode, Arnold Steinhardt, and Michael Tree. He was the founding cellist of the Saguaro Piano Trio, which won First Prize in the 2009 International Chamber Music Competition in Hamburg. Mr. Myers is also a composer; he was recently commissioned by violist Kim Kashkashian to write a work for viola and percussion.

December 21, 2010 Vientiane

Visiting Concert 1 9:00-10:50am

Venue: Sathit Primary School

Number of Performances: 3

Total number of current students: 600

Total audience: About 600

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
K Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A

When the quartet members arrived at the school, they were welcomed by 600 children.
We held three concerts instead of one, so all the students could attend.



Visiting Concert 2 11:30-12:30am

Venue: Setthathirath Hospital

Number of Performances: 1

Total audience: About 120

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
K. Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.

The concert was held at the entrance to the children's ward.
There were 116 admitted patients (including children) and 50 day patients on the day.



Photos: Shinobu Suzuki

December 22, 2010 Luang Prabang

Visiting Concert 3 10:00-11:00am

Venue: Luang Prabang Orphanage School

Number of Performances: 2

Total number of current students: 553

Total audience: About 500

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Instruments experience session

(1st concert)Schumann/String Quartet No. 3 in A majorOp41-3, 2nd movt.

(2nd concert)K. Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada

Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.

Q&A

This is the only school for orphans and children of single parents in Luang Prabang. Children were excited about seeing Western instruments for the first time in their lives.



Visiting Concert 4 4:30-6:00pm

Venue: Children's Culture Center Luang Prabang

Number of Performances: 1

Users per day: 50-60 children

Total audience: About 70

Program: Welcome Baci Ceremony by children & teachers

ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák / Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 .You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments

Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.

Instruments experience session

K. Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada

Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.

Q&A

Similar to after school facility. Welcome Baci ceremony (The oldest traditional Lao ceremony) was performed by children and teachers.



Welcome Baci Ceremony



Photos: Shinobu Suzuki

December 23, 2010 Luang Prabang

Visiting Concert 5 10:00-11:00am

Venue: Ban Tin Som Primary School

Number of Performances: 1

Total number of current students: 81

Total audience: About 90

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
K. Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A
Welcome performance by children (Song)

The concert was held at the assembly place at the back of the school. When the concert started, people nearby the school came over and enjoyed the music with the children.



Visiting Concert 6 2:00-3:00pm

Venue: Ban Muang Kai Primary School

Number Performances: 1

Total number of current students: 117

Total audience: About 130

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
K. Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A

All students attending this school gathered in one classroom and enjoyed the music together. After the concert, the quartet members had an opportunity to visit one of the student's homes (Lao people). They interacted with the family over tea, asking about their lives and school.



Photos: Shinobu Suzuki

December 24, 2010 Luang Prabang

Visiting Concert 7 10:00-11:00am

Venue: Ethnic Minority School

Number of Performances: 1

Total number of current students: 613

Total audience: About 500

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
K. Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A

The concert was held in the dining area, which had no walls or partitions, to meet their request that all students could enjoy the concert.



Visiting Concert 8 2:00-3:00pm

Venue: SOS School Luang Prabang

Number of Performances: 1

Total number of current students: 441

Total audience: About 120

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
K. Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A
Welcome performances by students

There are 205 SOS Schools worldwide, 6 of them in Laos. Students performed a traditional Lao dance (Ramayana) and played traditional marimba for the quartet.



Photos: Shinobu Suzuki

December 25, 2010 Vientiane

Visiting Concert 9 9:00-10:00am

Venue: SOS School Vientiane

Number of Performances: 1

Total number of current students: 450

Total audience: About 150

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
K. Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A
Welcome performance by students---Cancelled

It was a school holiday. Students who attended the concert were those living in the dormitory. Welcome performance by students was cancelled. They couldn't play music over the PA system because the power was out during the concert.



Visiting Concert 10 2:00-3:00pm

Venue: National Rehabilitation Center (NRC) School

Number of Performances: 1

Total number of current students: 91

Total audience: About 50

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Beethoven/String Quartet No. 5 in A major Op.18- 5, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
K. Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A

This school has students aged from 8 to 14 with visual or hearing disabilities. At the concert, enough time was provided for the students with disabilities to feel the sounds by touching the instruments. After the concert, the quartet members visited COPE, which is a pavilion with an exhibition about cluster bombs.



Photos: Shinobu Suzuki

December 26, 2010 Vientiane

Visiting Concert 11 9:00-10:30am

Venue: Children’s Education and Development Center

Number of Performances: 1

Users per day: 70-100 children

Total audience: About 80

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
K. Ishii (Arr. Peter Myers) Semi/ Cicada
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A
Welcome performance by Children

This center was built with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and cooperated with Action with Lao Children in 2005. Children performed the traditional play “San shin sai”.



Visiting Concert 12 11:00-12:00pm

Venue:Library of Action with Lao Children

Number of Performances: 1

Users per day: 30-40 children

Total audience: About 50

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
Beethoven/String Quartet No. 5 in A major Op.18- 5, 1st movt.
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A
Welcome performance by children

This library is managed by Action with Lao Children, which is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan.



Photos: Shinobu Suzuki

Free Concert for the public 7:00-9:00pm

Venue: Lao-Japan BUDO Center
In cooperation with: Embassy of Japan in Laos
Total audience: About 600

Program:
Opening address by Japanese Ambassador to Laos
H.E. Ms. Junko Yokota
ICEP Quartet:
Beethoven/String Quartet No. 5 in A major Op.18- 5, 1st and 3rd movts.
Schumann/String Quartet No. 3 in A major Op.41-3, 1st and 4th movts.
Lao Traditional Music and Dance: Performed by Students of National Music and Dance School

This concert was part of the events of the 55th Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Laos and Japan. People could enjoy both Western classical music and Lao traditional music and dance.



Japanese Ambassador to Laos H.E. Ms. Junko Yokota



Photos: Shinobu Suzuki

Visiting Concert 13 11:00-12:00pm

Venue: Thapabat Secondary School
Number of Performances: 1
Total number of current students: 925
Total audience: About 350

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
Beethoven/String Quartet No. 5 in A major Op.18- 5, 1st movt.
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A
Welcome performance by Children

This school is located in Thapabat county, which is 2 hours from Vientiane by car. We connected 2 classrooms so more students could attend the concert.



Visiting Concert 14 3:00-4:00pm

Venue: Phasing Primary School
Number of Performances: 1
Total number of current students: 450
Total audience: About 200

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
Beethoven/String Quartet No. 5 in A major Op.18- 5, 1st movt.
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A
Welcome performance by Children

This is a school for Mon (Ethnic minority) people. Children dressed in traditional Mon costume and performed a traditional dance.



Photos: Shinobu Suzuki

December 28, 2010 Vientiane

Visiting Concert 15 10:00-11:00am

Venue: Thong Khan Kham Primary School

Number of Performances: 1

Total number of current students: 90

Total audience: About 90

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Instruments experience session
Beethoven/String Quartet No. 5 in A major Op.18- 5, 1st movt.
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A
Welcome performance by Children

About 20% of the current students commute from Puanmit, a support center for street children.



Concert and Cultural Exchange 1:30-3:30pm

Venue: National Music and Dance School

Number of Performances: 1

Total number of current students: 300

Total audience: About 160

Program: Lao Traditional Music by students
Violin Solo by Violin Major Student
ICEP quartet:
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Beethoven /String Quartet No.5 in A major Op.18-5, 1st movt.
Schumann/String Quartet No. 3 in A major Op.41-3, 1st movt.
Q&A
Lao traditional instruments experience

The school does not have many Classical music major classes yet. A violin major was started last year but only 5 students attended. The quartet members were taught to play Lao traditional instruments by students.



Photos: Shinobu Suzuki

December 29, 2010 Vientiane

Visiting Concert 16 9:00-10:00am

Venue: Vientiane Youth Center and Clinic

Number of Performances: 1

Total number of young volunteers: 40

Total audience: 30

Program: ICEP quartet members introduced themselves
Dvořák/ Cypresses, B. 152 No.12 You are Asking Why
Explanation of instruments and music
Haydn/ String Quartet in G Op.76-1, 1st movt.
Beethoven/String Quartet No. 5 in A major Op.18- 5, 1st movt.
Mozart/ Divertimento in D major, K.136, 1st movt.
Q&A

Volunteers were around 20 years old. They were an active audience and had a lot of questions.

President of the Lao Women's Union Ms. Shakkachanh gave Midori a traditional Lao instrument, Keane.



Overview of ICEP 2010 Laos

In Laos, schools generally have enrollments of more than a hundred students, most of whom have not had any opportunities to listen to live music. That is why we had huge audiences or had to hold more than one concert at one location. Everyone was very curious about the music and instruments from another culture. During the tour of Laos, we saw many examples of why Laos is considered to be one of the most destitute countries in the world. On the other hand, we could not say the people looked unhappy. All the children we met had sparkling eyes and smiles, even though they might not have had pencils, books or shoes.

Laos does not have any orchestras yet. Their education system (included music education) seemed to be a work in progress, as did their economy. However, people in Laos were full of motivation for learning. We will pay attention, with interest, to their development.