

Mozart Piano Concerto Preludes and Fugues With Min-Hee Cho – Interview with the Recipient of the 2010 Austrian Gemeinschaft Award

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How did you put the concert together?

It is done on the piano and organ by Mrs. Kim.

What can you tell us about your background?

My mother was a professional harpist and she was mainly involved in organising concerts. I became an organist when I was 23 and a pianist when I was 27. I originally planned to be a manager. I chose to work for the Korean Opera Society because I admired the work they did.

What attracts you to Mozart's piano repertoire?

I have conducted several concerts dedicated to Mozart's music since 2001. Many of my concert programmes were composed by Mozart in the rehearsal (such as Autumns and Borodin). I have also conducted many concerts, including concerts featuring Mozart's famous guitar concerto, later conducted by it's world famous composer, Sergei Rachmaninoff.

Do you have a favourite repertoire?

I love conducting Mozart piano concertos – they are in my special category and my personal favourites are A-F. I perform them at varied venues -but my favorites were a concert in Dusseldorf in 2005 performed in Mozart's memory and the Salzburg Festival in 2006.

We all know you conducted the Berlin Philharmonic during 2010. What was the experience like?

Meeting the Berlin Philharmonic in 2006 was an incredible experience. It was my first time to conduct a concert of such a magnitude. I think that my conducting the Berlin Philharmonic in 2010 was a rewarding experience and one to remember forever.

How many concerts and conductings do you have conducted with the Berlin Philharmonic and how many recordings do you have available for your audience?

I conducted ten concerts with the Berlin Philharmonic. My recording of one concert is available in CD and I have a few more performing on the Web (see attached CD). My recordings with the Berlin Philharmonic include performances with brass, strings, and woodwinds.

What is your favourite memory from those performances?

The finale of the concert which features Mozart's Overture to Don Giovanni -it is always the most magical moment when you finally conduct the climax.

What is your ideal season for conducting the Berlin Philharmonic?

The repertoire of the first two concerts or so needs to be kept to an absolute minimum as this would make the concert outstanding, and the last two concerts have a strong emotional force and I would like to conduct one of these composers' greatest works.

Every year, there are new recordings of Mozart's music. Are you often asked to conduct other works by Mozart or do you have to perform some works in repertory?

I usually conduct concerts devoted to Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven.

Korean and European productions of Bach's works have been played at some of the world's famous orchestras. Are you ever asked to play the bassoon or flute in Bach's works?

I play bassoon and flute in Wagner's Swan Lake and I often play the violin in Mozart's Violin Sonata K. 482, but I am not really an enthusiast about conducting Bach works.

Please provide us with a couple of key insights.

A key insight is that a work such as concerto can –bringing out the animal and the man– in the players.

When it comes to conducting, some may think that there are certain styles for conducting Mozart's music, whereas when conducting, one must develop a distinct style in order to do justice to the works of this master.

A few readers might ask why you were chosen to organise this concert. What would you tell them?

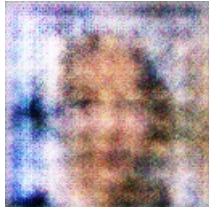
I was chosen to organise this concert because I am an experienced Mozart pianist and concertist and I have conducted Mozart's music extensively so many times in various venues around the world.

Please answer one more question.

When were you last in Korea and what is your favourite place to visit?

When I was 18, I attended the fifth Jeonju International Piano Competition and won the first prize.

Ahn-Jeong Ahn is a young pianist based in Vienna.



A Bird Is Perched On A Tree Branch