

Message from General Director Martha Argerich

14th March 2011

At the occurrence of such incredible natural disasters causing extraordinary loss of precious lives, please let me offer my profound condolence and heartfelt sympathy to the sufferers in Japan.

Japan has become special to me as I communicated with the Japanese people through music for quite a long time, when people always welcomed me very warmly.

As Japan is suffering from the unprecedentedly catastrophic tragedy I feel very sad, which always stays with me. I wish that there should be something that I could do to support the suffering people.

While Japan is in deep grief, I cautiously wondered whether the Music Festival of May in Beppu, Oita prefecture, should be held, and we came to the conclusion that we can rather offer our support, even if it would not be very much, by our positive actions through carrying it out. By the cooperation from the participating artists, we aim at contributing to the donation to the sufferers, as a charity action from the Music Festival.

Besides, under such a circumstance in order to extend our further support, together with all of you as well as the artists, as much as possible on a continuous basis, we would like to make a charity CD by recording the concerts of this Music Festival so that all the profits from the CD shall be utilized as additional contributions to the future recovery. I hope your understanding and cooperation.

I really wish that the Japanese people can take care of themselves and move forward to the future with hope and solidarity. My thoughts are with you.

Martha Argerich
President, Argerich Arts Foundation
General Director, Music Festival: Argerich's Meeting Point in Beppu

