

NOBUYA SUGAWA

須川展也



JT : Jennifer To

NS : Nobuya Sugawa

JT : What is your impression of the city?

NS : I am already excited when I think of the dazzling night-time panorama from the Peak, and how inspiring the city of Hong Kong is, where diversified cultures around the world meet. I also enjoy the comfortable balance of historic and new cityscape in Hong Kong.

JT : Many saxophonists have arranged their own versions of the Debussy's *Rhapsodie* before. What attracts you to the piece, and what new ideas are you bringing to your upcoming performance?

NS : Originally, the saxophone part was rather limited in this unfinished piece by Debussy. For this occasion, after valuable discussions with the orchestra, we have created and crafted additional saxophone parts in order to make the best use of the instrument: some parts are like melancholic whispers, and some others are quite voluptuous. There are parts that are just majestic sounding.

Accompanied by wonderful playing of the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, I would like to show the audience the saxophone's charms as an established 'classical' music instrument. I would very much like to deliver saxophone music which has tones like the human voice, expressing our sufferings, joys, and love.

JT : What made you commissioned the 'Ballad' from the Turkish composer Fazil Say? Did you work with the composer on the composition and what do you like best about this new piece?

NS : I earlier commissioned the Suite for Alto Saxophone and Piano from him, and we had a chance to perform the piece jointly in Tokyo and Osaka in 2014. Since then, we have been in very good communication. I commissioned him to compose the saxophone concerto, 'Ballad'. In the 'Ballad', you'll find a number of phrases that display Turkish poetic sentiment rooted in historical background. Also, you will see the skills

and techniques that are unique to the saxophone tactfully employed to impressive effect. You will also hear some percussive sounds and sounds like the plucking the strings throughout the music. The piece, accompanied by dynamic rhythms of percussion reaches its climax with rapture.

JT : You have played and recorded classical, contemporary and even jazz pieces. How do you switch from one style to another?

NS : I listen to music of various genres and grasp the essence of each, but do not see myself playing music of many different genres. What I am trying is to commit myself to studying and acquiring traditional styles and nuances of different types of music, and pass them to the generations as 'classical music' and as 'performing arts'.

JT : There are more and more young saxophone players in Hong Kong. What is your most important advice to them (apart from practice, practice, practice)?

NS : I would say, 'keep one's eyes and ears open'. Try to experience music of different styles. If you can feel the joy in each type of music, your musical expression will be enriched.

transcribed by Jennifer To

Saxophonist Nobuya Sugawa accompanied by the Hong Kong Sinfonietta under the direction of Roberto Forés Veses will give the Hong Kong premieres of Toshio Hosokawa's *Blossoming II* and Fazil Say's 'Ballad'. This concert will be broadcast in **Live on 4** on 26 October (Fri) at 8pm with a repeat on 31 October (Wed) at 2pm.

薩克管演奏家須川展也會聯同維塞斯指揮的香港小交響樂團演出細川俊夫的〈開花二〉和薩爾的薩克管協奏曲「敘事曲」，兩首樂曲均為香港首演。節目將在10月26日(星期五)晚上8時的**第四台音樂會**播出，並於10月31日(星期三)下午2時重播。