

**Message of the Director-General of UNESCO to
the Idaki Shin Concert at the Kumano Hongu Taisha Shrine, Ooyunohara
(19 July 2003)**

*“Light crossing over the landscape suggests a vision of the world resurrected,
showing the way to renovate a prosperous nation state protecting people’s lives”*

and to

**the Idaki Shin Tanzania Concert “Torch of Peace” in the framework
of the Conference of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)
(Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 25 August 2003)**

It gives me great pleasure to send my warm and cordial greetings to the organizers, especially Ms Keiko Koma of NPO Koma, and all participants on the occasion of the concerts given by Mr Idaki Shin in favour of peace.

I am most happy to congratulate Mr Idaki Shin, an admirable artist and pianist, for his devotion to this ideal. Through his music and his art, he has brought into our lives a new dimension of sound and harmony.

At the close of last century, Lord Yehudi Menuhin, who also devoted his entire life to music and to the quest for a better world, rightly said that “when the arts are absent from our lives, we are giving way to violence.” Indeed, music is an art that is essential for the construction, protection and preservation of peace.

UNESCO is strongly aware of the important influence of the creative spirit in shaping the human personality, bringing out the full potential of children and adolescents and maintaining their emotional balance – all factors which foster

harmonious behaviour regardless of historic or cultural differences, social background, gender or religion. Certainly, music can play an important role in improving relationships between individuals, groups, communities and entire societies. Music has the potential to bring people together and to bridge their differences, enabling them to live in peace and mutual understanding.

Music is a universal language. The role of music in a globalized world must be strengthened and UNESCO is increasing its efforts to enhance the appreciation, understanding and preservation of the rich musical heritage of the world. The world's musical and cultural diversity must be protected. The protection of musical diversity also requires us to acknowledge and sustain creativity, which is one of the major building-blocks of freedom. Without creativity, cultural diversity would be like a museum instead of something that lives and thrives on the nourishment of constantly renewed creations. Musical diversity, therefore, is an ineradicable dimension of our memory, heritage and creativity.

I therefore applaud Ms Seiko Koma's beautiful initiative and warmly salute the Heads of State of the SADC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania as well as the Embassy of Tanzania in Japan, for strongly supporting this marvellous message of peace that emanates from Mr Idaki Shin's music.



Koichiro Matsuura