



Les Clefs d'Or Japan Key News



April 2014, Vol. 17

Suntory Hall Backstage Tour

List of Les Clefs d'Or Japan attendees:

- Ms. Kay ABE (Grand Hyatt Tokyo)
- Mr. Osamu HAMASAKI (Hotel Okura Tokyo)
- Ms. Aiko IMAIZUMI (Grand Hyatt Tokyo)
- Ms. Mayako SUMIYOSHI (Palace Hotel Tokyo)
- Ms. Ikuyo TAKEUCHI (Hotel Grand Pacific Le Daiba)

By MAYAKO SUMIYOSHI

On February 20, the Suntory Beer & Spirits Limited, Les Clefs d'Or Japan associate member, invited the members to the Suntory Hall Backstage Tour.

The Suntory Hall marked its beginning in 1986 as the first concert hall in Tokyo. It was founded by Mr. Keizo Saji, the 2nd president of the Suntory Co., Ltd. Mr. Herbert von Karajan, known as one of the greatest conductors of the 20th century, and many specialists advised on the design of the hall. The hall was praised as the



"Jewelry Box of Sounds" when it opened.



The tour began by watching the hall history video in the Blue Rose, the smaller hall. Then, we were led to the lobby

and then to the backstage. The Suntory Hall, owned by the famous Japanese beverage company, had several beverage-related unique characteristics. For example, its seat layout is in "vineyard-style" where seats are arranged 360 degrees around the stage elevating gradually just like the real vineyards. In addition, the seat color is Bordeaux, the carpets are in wind red, the lobby arts are of the wheat motif.



The autographs of the performers were displayed



at the backstage lounge. We found some interesting backstage uniqueness as such as how effectively and smoothly they can load and unload musical instruments; the top of grand pianos used on the stage were all matt-coated to prevent the reflection of lights to the orchestra members; and the conductor's waiting room is only 12 steps in distance from the stage to maintain the concentration.

We also had a chance to enjoy the beautiful sounds of the pipe organ, which is the main feature of the hall. During which was the free lunch time concert which is held every month where anyone could come without making any reservation.

After the concert, the tour participants were allowed to come up on the stage and we made a debut by singing a famous song from the "Sound of Music". Thanks to Suntory Hall, many top musicians come to perform in Tokyo and our quality of life is fulfilled. We had felt and understood Suntory's passion in contributing in cultural affairs.

As the concierges in Tokyo often send guests to Suntory Hall, it was a very precious experience for us to learn more about the hall. Thank you very much.



Asian Congress 2015 Meeting

On March 18, the meeting was held in Shibuya, Tokyo.

The meeting began with the report that the Japan National Tourism Organization became the new supporter and restaurant



Seryna became an additional sponsor. There was a discussion on re-considering the program to make the congress even more productive for the participants.

The meeting concluded with consent on having all members taking action finding new sponsors for the congress.

New Members from Japan

Mr. Koji Notake, the Assistant Chief Concierge at the Shangri-La Hotel Tokyo, became a new adherent member and the pin insignia was given at the March meeting.

The Hinomaru Limousine Company, Limited became a new associative company and Mr. Hashimoto represented the company and received the certificate in the March meeting.

Les Clefs d'Or Japan consists of



2 honorary members, 15 full members, 11 adherent members and 11 associative companies.

Editors: OSAMU HAMASAKI / ADRIAN FAUTT
Publisher: MASUMI TAJIMA