



## 終身奉獻 Musical Devotion

Takako Nishizaki has played and taught the violin for decades, performing all over the world. But she insists her artistry has more to do with hard work than talent.

西崎崇子多年來不斷到世界各地巡迴演奏和教授小提琴，她堅持自己並非天才，她的音樂修為只是演奏潛質加上適當教育與栽培的成果。

“Art is a communication channel. In violin music, a real musician expresses feeling through the violin by taking care of each note with the heart. It’s like infusing life to the notes,” says world-acclaimed violinist, Takako Nishizaki.

Born and raised in Japan, Hong Kong-based Nishizaki wows audiences by playing the Chinese classic, “Butterfly Lovers”. She says, “Romantic, sad and yet dramatic, this was my first impression for the Butterfly Lovers. To me, music is simply music, I tried to understand what the composer wanted to express, and I started practicing. The more I practice, the more it made sense and understood.”

Nishizaki started performing publicly at the age of five, and was qualified to teach the violin at 10. In her quest for improvement, she has already recorded Butterfly Lovers seven times. With worldwide awards, she has not rested on her laurels. She also teaches violin by using the Suzuki Method which in her unique style.

“I’m very strict to the parents. I have to interview them before I enrol their kids as my students. Firstly, as I said, art is a communication channel, and I want the kids to learn and play violin with heart. I require their mothers or fathers to come to the lessons, and make sure they practice with the kids together at home.

“Secondly, I can see how the kids behave by interviewing their parents. It is not easy to teach spoiled kids, many of them don’t even have manners and basic respect. How can they learn if they don’t respect and listen to me? Be it the etiquette or the skills, all my students started learning the fundamentals at my studio,” explains Nishizaki. “But I’m so proud to see my students performing with confident on stage, and I guess this is the driving force other than my own affection.”

Nishizaki, however, reveals it is never a smooth path for musicians or even violinists in Hong Kong. “As a professional violinist as well as a violin teacher, I’m so mad yet sorry to see thousands of unprofessional violin teachers. You know, the violin is a complicated instrument that requires accurate posture, bow and breath,

「藝術是一個溝通渠道。真正的音樂家會用心感受每一個音符，再透過小提琴演奏表達情感，就好像為音符灌注了生命一樣。」作為國際知名的小提琴家，西崎崇子一語道出藝術家與演奏家的分別。

西崎崇子在日本土生長，丈夫為德國籍，現時以香港為基地。她把中國經典《梁祝》演繹得優美生動，更從此一鳴驚人。「浪漫、哀傷，而又戲劇性。這是我對《梁祝》的第一印象。在灌錄第一張唱片時，我的丈夫只是簡略地告訴我關於這個經典的中國故事。對我來說，音樂純粹是音樂，我會嘗試理解作曲家想表達些甚麼，然後開始練習。練習越多，我感受和明白的就越多。」

五歲開始公開演奏，十歲獲取小提琴教學資格，西崎崇子本着精益求精的精神，灌錄了七張《梁祝》唱片。她得過了國際性的獎項，跨過了人生重要的里程碑，但西崎崇子並沒有因此而滿足。她更以鈴木教學法教授小提琴。

「我對家長的要求很嚴格，並會在招收學生前，先與家長進行面試。首先，就如我所說，藝術是一個溝通渠道，我想孩子用心去學習和演奏小提琴。我要求家長陪同他們來上課，並確保他們在家裡會跟孩子一同練習。」

「第二，透過面試，我便可得知家長是如何教導他們的孩子。因為被寵壞的孩子不易教，有很多連禮貌和基本的尊重都沒有。若他們不尊重我、不聽我講，他們如何學習？無論是禮儀或是技巧，所有學生都在我的音樂教室都要從基本學起。」西崎崇子說。「但能夠看到我的學生在台上充滿自信地表演，使我很自豪，我想這就是我個人情感以外對推廣小提琴的原動力。」

然而，西崎崇子卻表示，在香港做音樂家或是學小提琴都並不容易。「作為一個專業小提琴家和小提琴老師，當我看見數以千計未達專業水準的所謂小提琴老師時，我既憤怒又難過。大家都知道，小提琴是最複雜的樂器，要準確拉出音調需要配合正確的姿勢、拉弓和呼吸，任何細微偏差都會導致走調。」

「其實，教授小提琴是一門巧妙的藝術。我希望政



a tiny deviation of any part will result in bad intonation.”

“Teaching violin is a sophisticated art. I urge the government to set up an association to monitor the quality of the teachers and tutors, ensuring they are qualified and certified to teach. Otherwise, they may destroy a kid’s development in music.”

From 1974 Nishizaki has been living in Hong Kong, and she feels obligated to give back to the society. She organises fundraising dinners and regular student charity concerts in conjunction with Benji’s Centre to help the kids suffer from speech and language disorders. The annual charity concert will be held at the end of November at Loke Yew Hall, Main Building of University of Hong Kong.

From learning, performing, to recording and teaching, Nishizaki has dedicated her life to the violin. ●

府盡快設立一個完善的機制，監察老師和導師的質素，確保他們符合教學的資格和學歷。否則，他們會妨礙孩子的音樂發展。」

西崎崇子從1974年開始定居香港，以香港為家的她對回饋社會感到責無旁貸。她與庭恩兒童中心合作，定期舉辦籌款晚宴和學生慈善演奏會，幫助有語言障礙的兒童。今年的學生週年週年慈善演奏會將於11月尾假香港大學本部大樓陸佑堂舉行。

從學習、演奏，到灌錄唱片及教授小提琴，西崎崇子將她的生命都奉獻給小提琴。●