スーク(市場)にいたオマーン人の親子(撮影:平井元喜)

Dr Patricia Groves on the infusions of drama by the acclaimed Japanese pianist Motoki Hira at Sultan Qaboos Cultural Centre arthquake and Tsunami and gave a s HE George Hisaeda, number of free concerts to raise funds for the victims. The composer works dor rose to speak, a buzz for world peace through UNESCO, the of expectation rippled Red Cross and other charitable organ-SQU's Sultan Qaboos Cultural Centre. Everyone knew the piano recital Musical families would be by a world-class pianist. I got to know Motoki at a private The Ambassador began by mentionconcert and dinner at the Japanese ing the importance of the cultural di-Residence and he kindly accepted my mension in his Embassy's mission. He invitation to attend the Dr L Subrareminded us that outstanding Japamaniam concert at the Royal Opera nese musicians such as Seiji Ozawa and Midori Gotoh perform in the great House. Apart from the absolutely stunning performance by the Subravenues of the world. The Berlin Philmaniam family, Hirai was greatly imharmonic Orchestra is currently conpressed with the beauty of the concert ducted by a thirty-three year Japanese hall and the quality of the Royal Oman violinist, Daishin Kashimoto. Symphony Orchestra. Born into a highly gifted musi-A most brilliant & sensitive talent cal family. Motoki studied piano and Ambassador Hisaeda introduced composition with his grandfather, acclaimed Japanese pianist, Motoki the eminent composer Kozaburo Hirai, by quoting from the critical his approach to JS Bach's Organ Con- was Motoki Hirai's grand composition Hirai. Motoki's award-winning father, press, with the UK Guardian hailing certo in D Minor with a new arrange- - Scenes from a Native Land - Fanta- Takeichiro Hirai, is acclaimed as one him as 'a most brilliant and sensitive ment after Vivaldi's Lestro Armonico sie Japonaise. The piece commences of the most distinguished cellist of his talent with incomparable musicality'. This high praise is echoed by critics in with deep piano drumming evocative generation. Takeichiro worked with of powerful periods in the long hisluminaries such as Villa-Lobos, Shos-New York and other world capitals. In tory of the nation and its noble origins. takovich, Khachaturian, Britten and Japan his music is recognised as hav- Sophisticated dramatic expression Then Hirai's thunder-and-lightening Segovia - and studied for several years ing 'the sparks of genius'. with Pablo Casals, Motoki and his fafingers enact the dramas of time, place Hirai adds subtle tonal contrasts and This exceptional artist was merely and human action characteristic of ther have performed together at prestigious venues, including London's posed his first work, and Ambassa- of drama that magically blend into the nation. dor Hisaeda announced that Oman the natural flow of the music. With could see landscapes, war, peace and was chosen for the premiere of three an amazing affinity for sophisticated dramatic expression, Motoki seemed the construct of civilization - and I a program of popular piano classics born to play Beethoven, sending shiv- could feel the composer's deep em- warm-hearted and insightful in confrom JS Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and ers down the spine of each listener as pathy with the struggles and achievehe articulated the magnificence and ments of his homeland. Motoki know. As Motoki has just celebrated lyrical depth of the famous Moonlight Hirai now lives in London and has his fortieth birthday, the world has the art of giving well-known works a Sonata. Motoki was equally brilliant acquired an outside perspective that much more to gain both artistically fresh interpretation that endows the with Mendelssohn's lively and comhas augmented his understanding and philanthropically from this exmusic with new life, yet maintains its plex Rondo Capriccioso. of Japan and fired his imagination. ceptionally talented and generous traditional appeal. This was evident in But the magnus opus of the concert He was greatly affected by the tragic

オマーンの国民紙・文化欄一面に掲載されたコンサート評。 写真(上)は、オマーンの王族、スルタン・カブース大学関係者、 久枝譲治日本大使夫妻らとステージ上で喝采を浴びる筆者。

フォトエッセイ国境なき音楽紀行Ⅱ

第1回 オマーンく前編>

~海洋帝国の遺風と南国気質の人々~

日頃、音楽を通して人々と交流し、世界各地を 旅することが多い。これら旅の印象と感動を、 フォトエッセイという形でほんの一部でも皆さま にお届けできればと思う。 平井元喜

* 平井元喜さんがオペラの雑誌に連載されていた人気フォトエッセイ 『国境なき音楽紀行』が Euro News 誌で蘇り、続編がスタート しました。

オ・マスカット サウジアラビア アラビア海

リやカ首ロ国 界もはンン団のたり(スとも洋香交はのバサ在ブ都ン際2的完荘交人の普と、ルオも勢全辛通、海ッア

高

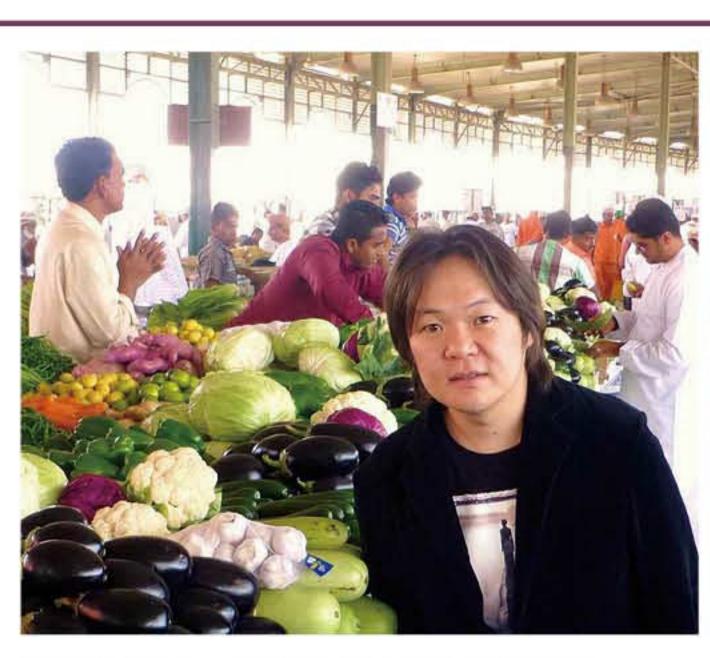
学生や王侯貴族

カブース国王が国民にプレゼントした豪華絢爛たる グランドモスク。2001年の完成時は中東最大の モスクであった。(撮影:平井元喜)

で潤う経済

平井 元喜(ひらい もとき)

【プロフィール】ピアニスト、作曲家。73年東京生まれ。 桐朋高校、慶応義塾大学文学部哲学科、英王立音楽院大学 院卒。これまでヨーロッパ・中東・アフリカ・米国・中南米・ アジア各地を演奏旅行。米カーネギーホール、英ウィグモ アホール、蘭コンセルトへボウ等でしばしばリサイタルを 行う。2016年は、バービカンセンター(ロンドン)、コ ンツェルトハウス(ウィーン)、銀座王子ホール、ラ・フォル・ ジュルネ音楽祭などで公演。音楽を通して平和・教育・医療・ 環境問題にも積極的に取り組む。3.11 以降、30 回以上に 渡り復興支援コンサートを続ける。07年よりプロジェク ト「日本の民話絵本を世界へ」(朗読・音楽・映像のコラ ボ)を芸術監督として主導。NHK 文化センター、時事通 信社トップセミナー等で講演。BBC、NHK、テレビ朝日「題 名のない音楽会」などテレビ・ラジオ出演も多い。96年 よりロンドン在住。 www.motoki-hirai.com



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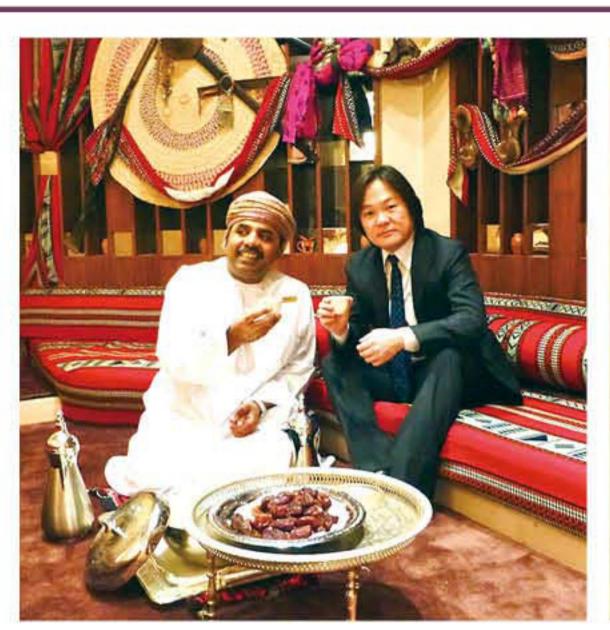
お

世界

0

音

活気あるスークで色とりどりの野菜に 囲まれて。



かつては迎賓館だった最高級ホテル の茶室でおもてなしを受ける。 手前はデーツ(なつめやしの実)。



スルタンカブース大学音楽学部教授、 民族楽器を抱える筆者、音楽民族学部の 学生さん。(写真左から)