

Society Report 2019

Herschel Society of Japan

Tamao TSUNODA and Sadaharu UEHARA

We celebrate the Annual General Meeting of the William Herschel Society and express our appreciation for your invitation of a report from our Society.

Activities

Society member Ms Nobuko IIZAWA, who is a professional cloisonné artist, held two exhibitions of her works related to the constellations of Ainu, indigenous people of Hokkaido.

The first was held in Shiroy City, Chiba Prefecture from February to March, and the second was held in Higashiyamato City, Tokyo from March to May (*1).

Nobuko lived in Hokkaido for a long time until 2015, and had been working in her studio in the suburbs of Sapporo. She has deep knowledge of Ainu culture, and her beautiful works, backed by her knowledge and experience, impressed many viewers. In addition, in a part of each exhibition period, a program introducing the constellations of Ainu was projected at a planetarium in each facility of the venue.

Other activity

Last December, a viola and piano concert was held at Kawasaki Municipal Science Museum Planetarium in Kanagawa Prefecture (*2). This concert featured a variety of musical works on the subject of stars, including Schubert's "Lied eines Schiffers an die Dioskuren", Manuel Ponce's "Estrelita" and John Cage's "Atlas eclipticalis", etc. And it also included William Herschel's "Concerto for Viola and Orchestra in D minor".

In preparation for the concert, Mr Chihiro TAI, a viola player on the day, asked about the score for this Herschel work, and we provided the score to him. We are delighted that we were able to help the concert, and that many people got to know Herschel's music.

References

*1) Digital Archives, Herschel Society of Japan

<https://www.ne.jp/asahi/mononoke/ttnd/herschel/actvty-text/exhibition2019.html>

*2) Press release by Kawasaki City

<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/templates/press/880/0000112237.html>