

## Palau's first classical music concert

Palau witnessed its first classical music concert at Ngarachamayong Cultural Center on Friday September 10, 2010 showcasing the celebrated talents of cellist Ludovit Kanta of Slovakia and Aya Tsurumi of Japan. The Friendship Concert Palau-Japan-Slovakia sponsored and collaborated by the Ludovit Kanta Society, Embassy of Japan, Western Pacific Shipping Company, and Kyowa Shipping Co. Ltd in Japan began to take shape after a chance meeting between the members of the society and young Palauan student by the name of Chris Kitalong, son of Clarence and Ann Kitalong of Airai. Chris said members of the society expressed their desire to come to Palau and the ball began rolling from there. The society donated some pianos to Palau, one of which was the Grand Piano which was played by Ms. Tsurumi during the concert.

However, earlier in the evening the young Japanese who donated her grand piano was able to delight the audience by playing her piano for the last time. Former President Kuniwo Nakamura, also a friend of the group thanked the Society on behalf of Palau and accepted the gift saying that the Grand piano will be housed at

Ngarachamayong, and will be used accordingly.

The Concert featured Ludovit Kanta at cello and Ms. Aya Tsurumi at piano performing various famous musical compositions of piano virtuosos such as Frederic Chopin's Fantaisie-Impromptu, Variation on a theme of Slovakia by B. Martinu, Siciliana by M. Paradis, Kojo no tsuki by Rentaro Taki and much more. Ludovit Kanta, born in Bratislava, Slovakia and educated in Prague, is recognized in Europe and Japan as an outstanding musician and distinguished teacher. Mr. Kanta has many accomplishments in the music world including the following; in 1980, he won 2nd prize at Prague Spring Competition and went on to place first at the Beethoven Competition in Hradec. In 1982, he became the

first solo cellist-concertmaster of the Slovak Phi Harmonic Orchestra, a position he held for 8 consecutive years. He has performed with renowned conductors as well as participated in symphonies in both Europe and Japan and is the winner of 2010 Iwaki Awards, which recognizes top musicians.

Ms. Aya Tsurumi, the pianist was born and raised in Ishikawa, Japan and attended Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. She later studied in Germany. She is the winner of few awards, having participated in numerous concerts including piano ensembles, chamber music, and soloist performance, both in Japan and Europe. Ms. Tsurumi has been teaching at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music.

People, Places and...

Free Classical Music concert  
at Ngarachamayong  
Friday, Sept. 10