

Martha Argerich Day

Declaration

- Ms. Martha Argerich has been continuing her activities in Oita Prefecture and throughout the world. In 1998, MUSIC FESTIVAL Argerich's Meeting Point in Beppu was launched as the first music festival bearing her name. Since then, she has come to Oita with world-prominent musicians and loved Oita as if it were her hometown and spread the name of Oita around the world.
- Through the Music Festival, Ms. Argerich has also focused on the cultivation of young musicians. The Music Festival has provided a world-first-rate music environment producing many professional classical musicians. The Music Festival also holds Pinocchio Concerts aiming to foster children's rich minds with the support of Ms. Argerich, and many children around Oita Prefecture have attended the concerts.
- Ms. Argerich has provided support for disaster recovery. After the Great East Japan Earthquake, she held a concert in Paris to pray for restoration. When Oita Prefecture underwent damage from the Kumamoto Earthquake, she immediately decided to come to Japan to hold the Music Festival as she thought it especially important for it to be held at such a time. Thus, Ms. Argerich has given the people courage and hope.
- At Shiiki presents Argerich's Haus presented to Ms. Argerich by the late Mr. Shiiki Masakazu in 2015, chamber music concerts by top-class musicians are held regularly. The facility is widely known to the citizens serving as a new base for the arts and culture in Oita Prefecture.
- In December 2018, the Music Festival held a concert in Rome, Italy, the first concert in Europe for this festival, beginning exchanges between Oita Prefecture and Rome.

Oita Prefecture would like to honor Ms. Martha Argerich for her historical achievements together with the people in Oita Prefecture and around the world, and communicate the role of the arts and the spirit of tolerance and solidarity to the world through the Music Festival whose intention has been to send messages from this rural region to the world.

Oita Prefecture will strive to realize a secure society where everybody can feel peace of mind and pass this spirit over to the future hand in hand with Ms. Argerich.

In commemoration of her 80th birthday, we hereby designate June 5 as Martha Argerich Day.

May 6, 2021

Hirose Katsusada, Governor of Oita Prefecture