



Ambassador of the Arts

Amid the noise and conflict of modern life, Midori stands out as a model of what it means to be an artist in the twenty-first century. From the very beginning of her remarkable career, she has signaled her dedication to music – not just for its own sake, but as an expression of the shared humanity of all people. Through parts of four decades, she has acted on that dedication in exemplary fashion, combining virtuosity, passion, and a constant commitment to the betterment of the human condition.

Her artistry has taken her to the very top of her profession, in collaborations with musicians from Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa to Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma; and orchestras from the Berlin, Vienna, and New York Philharmonics to the Boston Symphony and the Royal Concertgebouw. Throughout her career, Washington Performing Arts has enjoyed both a professional relationship and a friendship with her, ever since her debut recital here as a teenager. She continues to fill concert halls everywhere, to extend her reach through her many audio and video recordings, and to garner praise from critics and fellow musicians.

She is as indefatigable in her philanthropic activities as she is in her music. Her many public-spirited initiatives include The Midori Foundation; the *Midori and Friends* educational program; *Partners In Performance*, bringing chamber music to underserved communities; and her *Orchestra Residencies Program*, serving youth ensembles. She continues to support contemporary musicians through her promotion and advocacy of new music, emphasizing the contributions of living women composers. As a teacher of music, she has held positions at the Curtis Institute, U.S.C., the Peabody Institute, and Ravinia, and overseas at conservatories in Beijing, Shanghai, and Osaka.

Truly a citizen of the world in every way, Midori continuously puts into action her belief that music is an indispensable, beneficial element of what it means to be human, crucial to developing mutual understanding among all people. Through her non-profit *MUSIC SHARING* organization and its International Community Engagement Program, she has facilitated musical exchanges and performances throughout Asia and, indeed, the entire world. Her global efforts have been recognized by the United Nations, the World Economic Forum, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, among others.

For her unsurpassed excellence in music, her tireless work in education and philanthropy, and her active commitment to human advancement regardless of national boundaries, Washington Performing Arts is proud to honor Midori with its Ambassador of the Arts Award.

Washington, D.C., January 24, 2020

Jenny Bilfield, President & CEO

Tom Gallagher, Chairman