

©April, 2020

©No. 1936 Subscription (Program A)

■Toshio Hosokawa (1955–)

■Meditation – To the Victims of Tsunami 3. 11 – (2012) (14')

Japanese composer Toshio Hosokawa was born in Hiroshima. In 1976, he went to Germany to study composition with Isang Yun, a Korean composer educated in Japan, at the *Hochschule der Künste* Berlin (today's *Universität der Künste Berlin*). He then moved to Freiburg to take lessons from Klaus Huber and Brian Ferneyhough at the *Hochschule für Musik Freiburg* until 1986. Since completing his studies, he has been involved with numerous festivals and events that focus on contemporary music. He was Composer-in-Residence at the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra between 1998 and 2007. In 2001, he became the Music Director of the Takefu International Music Festival, one of the best-known concert series of contemporary music in Japan. He has been Guest Professor at the Tokyo College of Music and Elisabeth University of Music in Hiroshima. Hosokawa's compositions are often characterized as a symbiosis of Western and Japanese traditions.

Hosokawa's *Meditation* was composed between 2011 and 2012. The piece was commissioned by the Tongyeong International Music Festival and premiered on March 23 during the 2012 Festival. It was dedicated to the victims of the devastating tsunami triggered by the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and reflects on the aftermath of the tsunami. Hosokawa has been always interested in expressing "the unification of humans and nature, and the beautiful correspondence between them through music." For his *Meditation*, however, he had to deal with the unbalanced circumstance created by the arrogant attitude of the humans towards the nature. Hosokawa says, "... the 2011 Earthquake made us once again realize the terror and violence of nature, and at the same time, it was a strong warning against humans who forgot that and kept on devouring the energy created by nuclear power."

[Akira Ishii]